satou kashi no dangan wa uchinukenai
a lollipop or a bullet

scene 1: exotic lollipop (and other red roses)

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砂糖菓子の弾丸は撃ちぬけない 上

A Lollypop or A Bullet

原作 桜庭一樹 Kazuki Sakuraba

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Scene.1

*Ninayama is literally translated as "Call Mountain"

Yes...

Something I had to find was there.

I could feel it...

My brother calls it, "The candy of nobles."

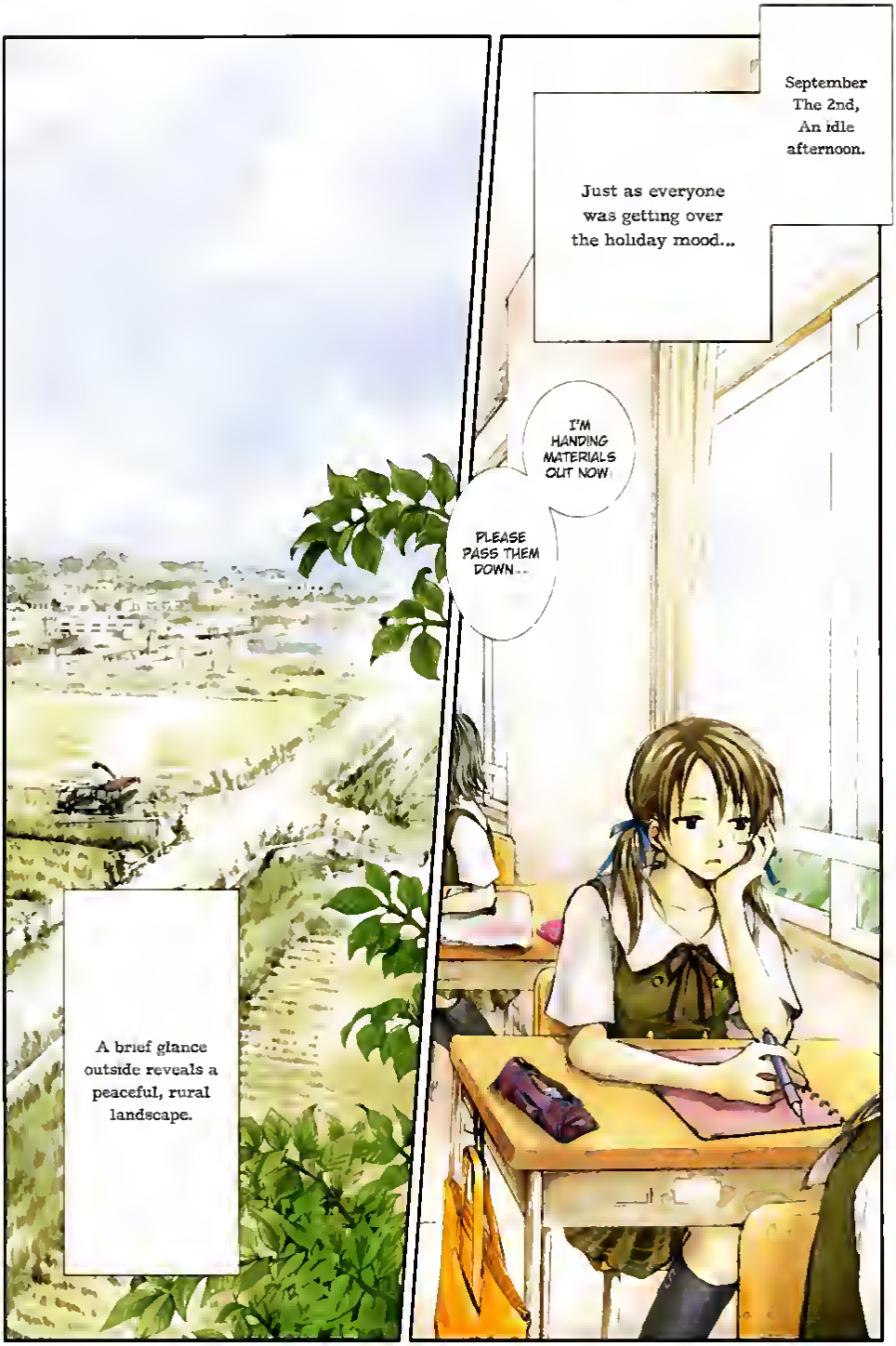
Scene.1

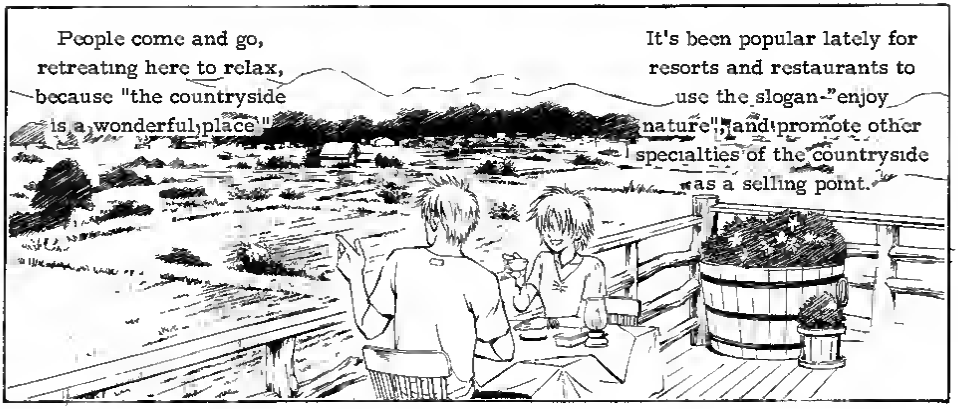
Exotic Lollipop

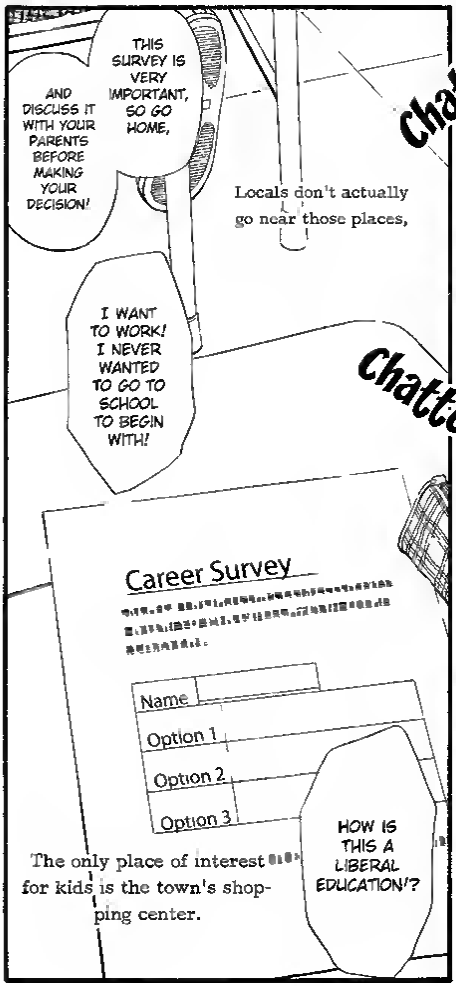
(and other red roses)

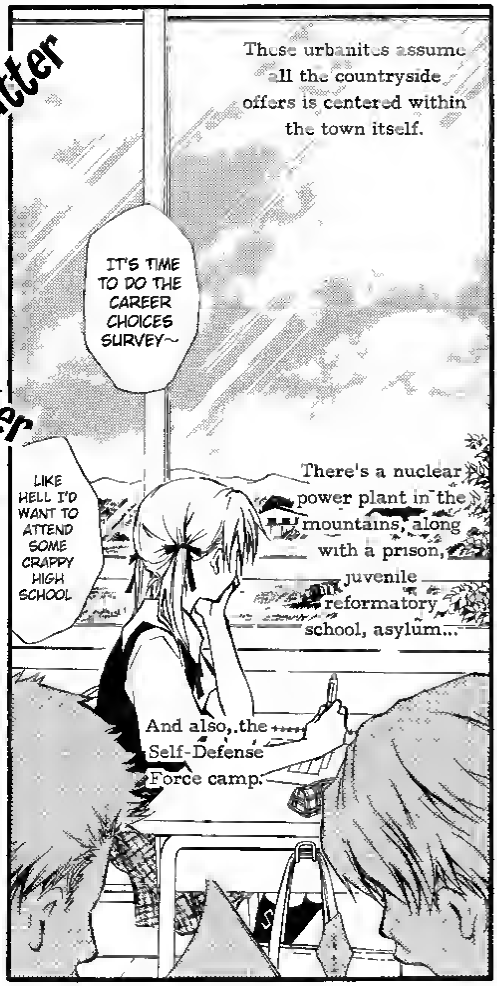
It's a "candy" that cannot fill the stomach,

And yet...


September
The 2nd,
An idle
afternoon.
Just as everyone
was getting over
the holiday mood...
I'M
HANDING
MATERIALS
OUT NOW!
PLEASE
PASS THEM
DOWN...
A brief glance
outside reveals a
peaceful, rural
landscape.


People come and go, retreating here to relax, because "the countryside is a wonderful place."
It's been popular lately for resorts and restaurants to use the slogan-"enjoy nature", and promote other specialties of the countryside as a selling point.

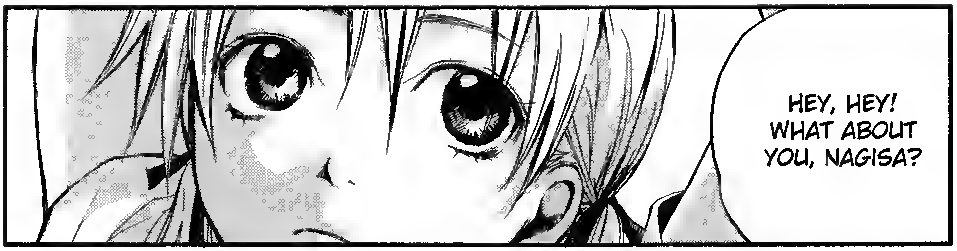

THIS SURVEY IS VERY IMPORTANT, SO GO HOME,
AND DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR PARENTS BEFORE MAKING YOUR DECISION!
Chatter
Locals don't actually go near those places,
I WANT TO WORK! I NEVER WANTED TO GO TO SCHOOL TO BEGIN WITH!
Chatter
Career Survey
Name
Option 1
Option 2
Option 3
HOW IS THIS A LIBERAL EDUCATION!?
The only place of interest for kids is the town's shopping center.


Those urbanites assume all the countryside offers is centered within the town itself.
IT'S TIME TO DO THE CAREER CHOICES SURVEY~
LIKE HELL I'D WANT TO ATTEND SOME CRAPPY HIGH SCHOOL
There's a nuclear power plant in the mountains, along with a prison, juvenile reformatory, school, asylum...
And also, the Self-Defense Force camp.

If you ever visit this remote little town, you'll see plenty of the locals.
And those dreaming of leading an interesting and fulfilling life.
YOU BUNCH OVER THERE, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING!?
THEY USE EDUCATION AS AN EXCUSE TO CHAIN US DOWN! THOSE FILTHY ADULTS AND THEIR METHODS! AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TOO, I OBJECT!!
I DON'T AGREE WITH THIS!
Hahaha!
MAN, YOU'RE COOL!
WELL SAID!
WELL SAID!
LIKE THE UNIFORMS AT MINAMI HIGH- THEY'RE SO CUTE!
TOTALLY. IT'S A FORM OF IDENTITY, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU ASK ME, I SAY CHOOSING THE SCHOOL'S UNIFORM IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT, DON'T YOU THINK?
—Aren't they amazing? They could go on forever aimlessly talking about pointless subjects. Even— —I'm beginning to admire them for it.
MMM~
HMPH!
SANAE MORI'S DESIGNS WOULD MAKE YOU CRINGE~
FORGET IT.
AS A YOUNG LADY, IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I ATTEND SEIRAN HIGH SCHOOL.

I'm sorry...

But I have better things to do.

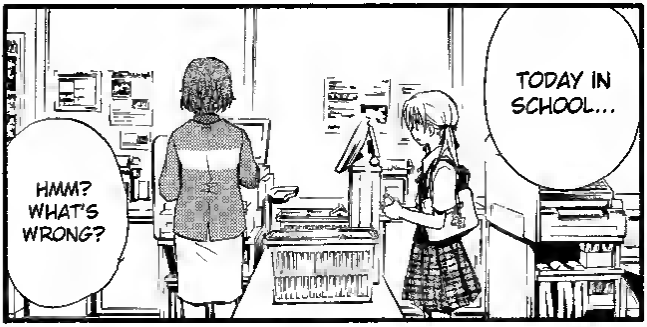


The turning point was three months ago...

What I want now, are "bullets."

MILITARY UNIFORMS?
That's the way to survive in this reality.

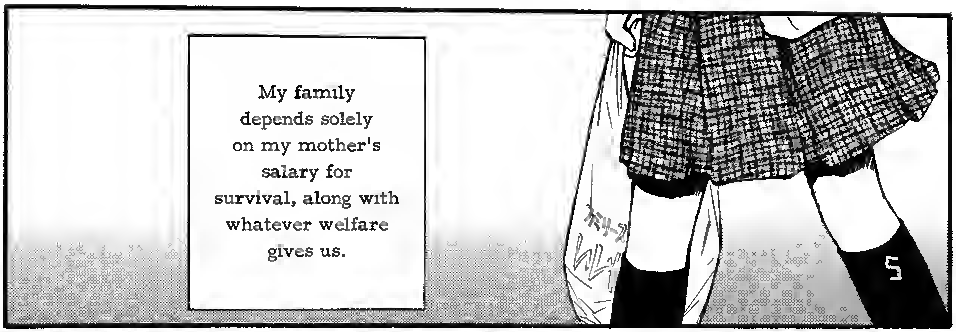
BEEP

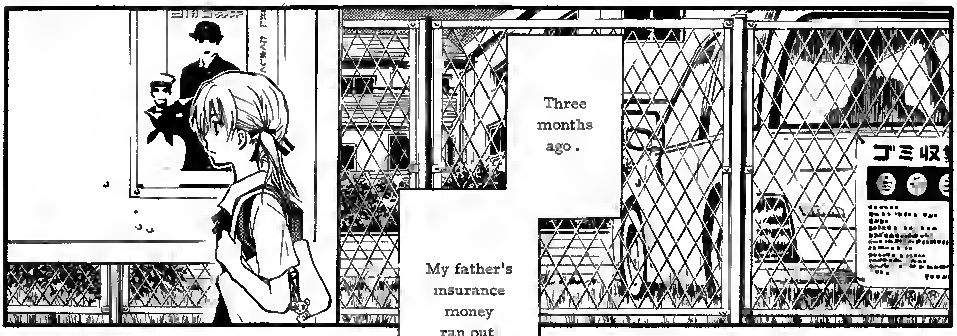

TODAY IN SCHOOL...
HMM? WHAT'S WRONG?

MOMMY HAS TO WORK AN EXTRA SHIFT TONIGHT.
OKAY, OKAY. I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

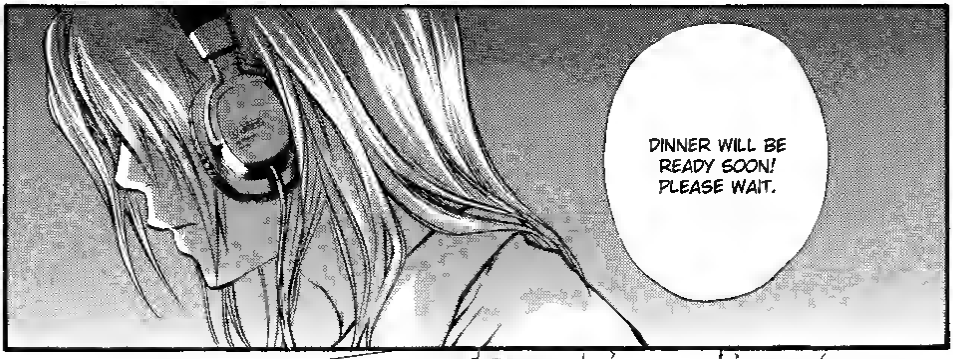
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE. 351 THOUSAND YEN!
Hehe
SO... WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

...NEVERMIND.


My family depends solely on my mother's salary for survival, along with whatever welfare gives us.

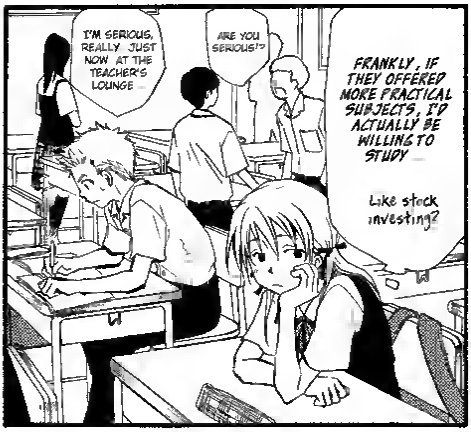

Three months ago.
My father's insurance money ran out

ONII-CHAN?
Thud Thud
I'M HOME!
Click

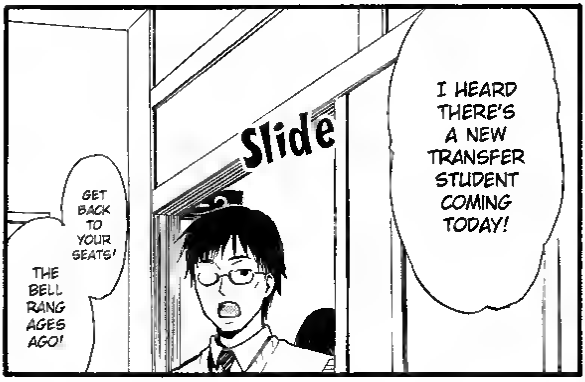

DINNER WILL BE READY SOON! PLEASE WAIT.

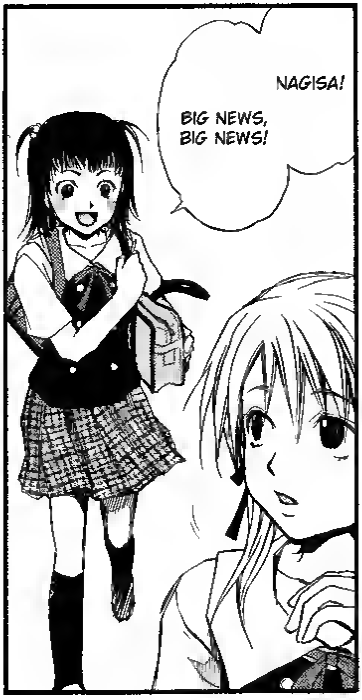
If you want something, you have to fight and earn it with your own hands.

I'll enlist in the Self-Defense Force


I'M SERIOUS. REALLY JUST NOW AT THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE...
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
FRANKLY, IF THEY OFFERED MORE PRACTICAL SUBJECTS, I'D ACTUALLY BE WILLING TO STUDY...
Like stock investing?

YAMADA!
DID YOU FINISH THE MODERN JAPANESE ASSIGN-MENT!?
Wha—
GOOD MORNING, NAKAJIMA
YOU WANT IT?
YES!!

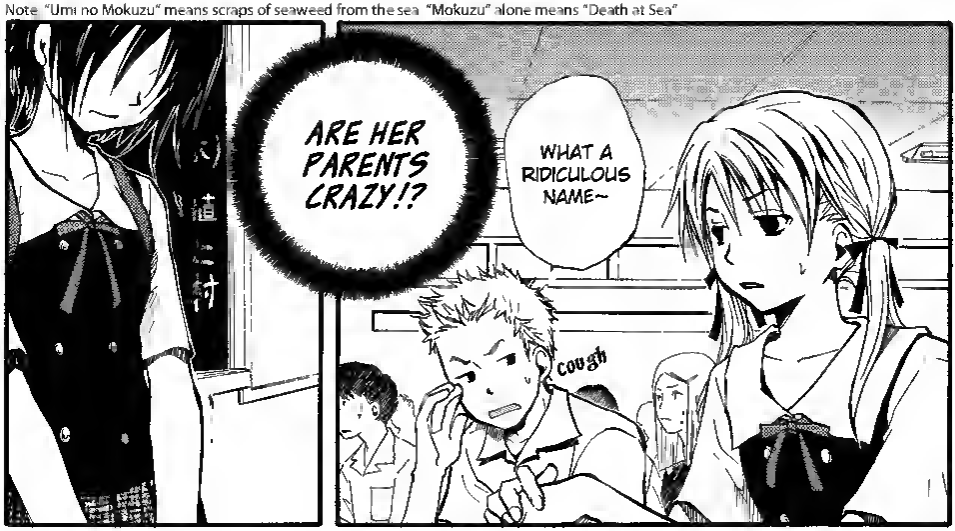

Slide
I HEARD THERE'S A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT COMING TODAY!
GET BACK TO YOUR SEATS!
THE BELL RANG AGES AGO!


NAGISA!
BIG NEWS, BIG NEWS!

To everyone else, having a transfer student is such a big event.
step

Chalkboard: Umino Mokuzu

Note: "Umi no Mokuzu" means scraps of seaweed from the sea. "Mokuzu" alone means "Death at Sea"



UMINO, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
WASN'T HE FROM THIS PREFECTURE? HIS HOME SHOULDN'T BE FAR FROM HERE!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW...
Umino Masachika.

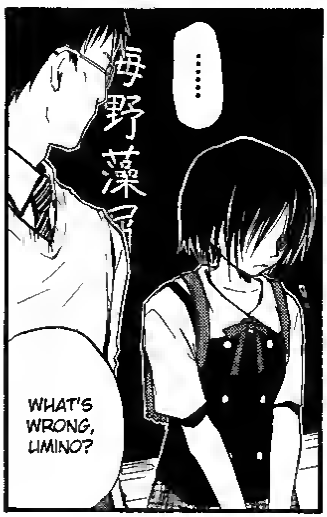
But now his fame is a thing of the past...

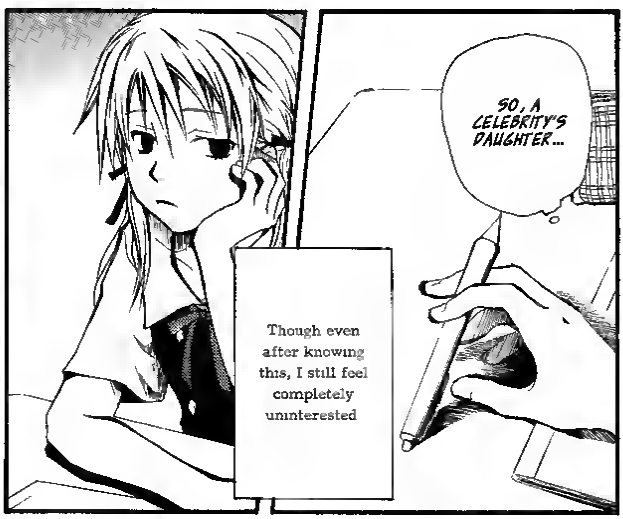
Which is why we don't know much about him.

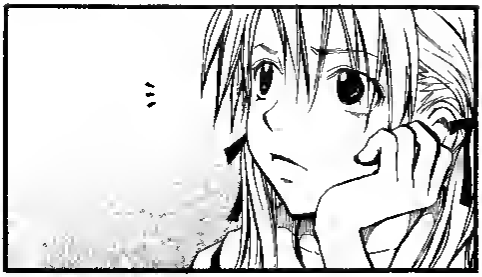
He was someone who used to be incredibly popular on TV - a celebrity with a delicate and pretty face.

Is still used frequently as commerical theme music.

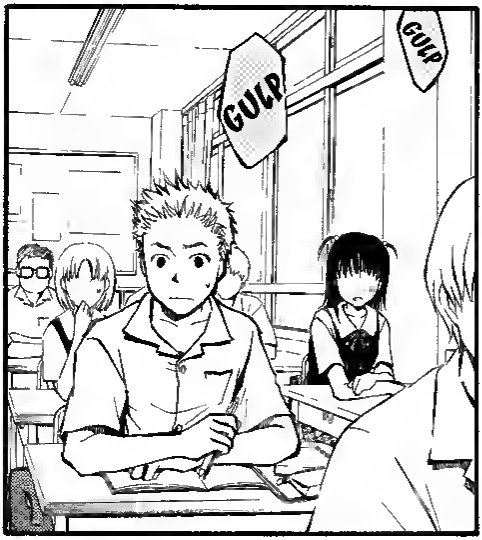
But his band's debut song, "Ningyo no Hone*"





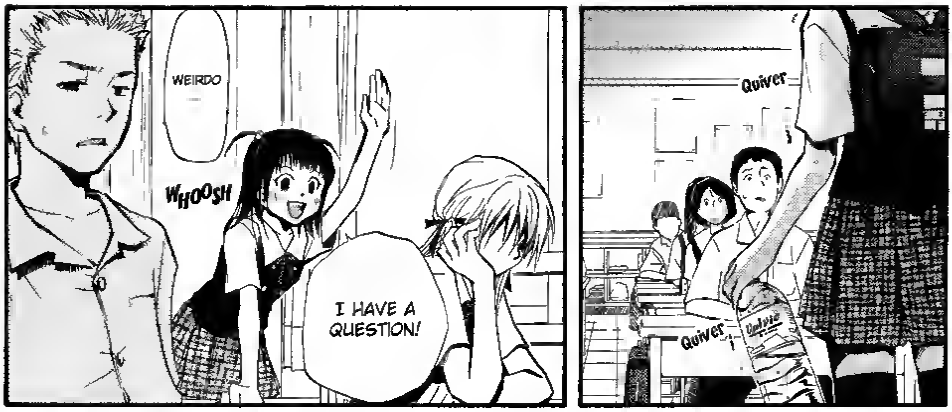


Volv
From France
SLOSH

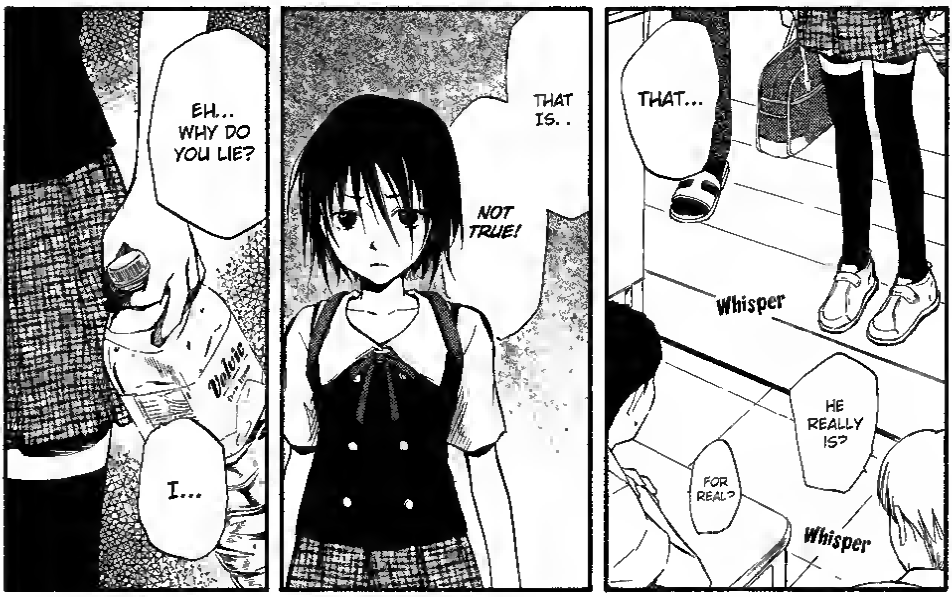

GULP
GULP

GULP
GULP
G

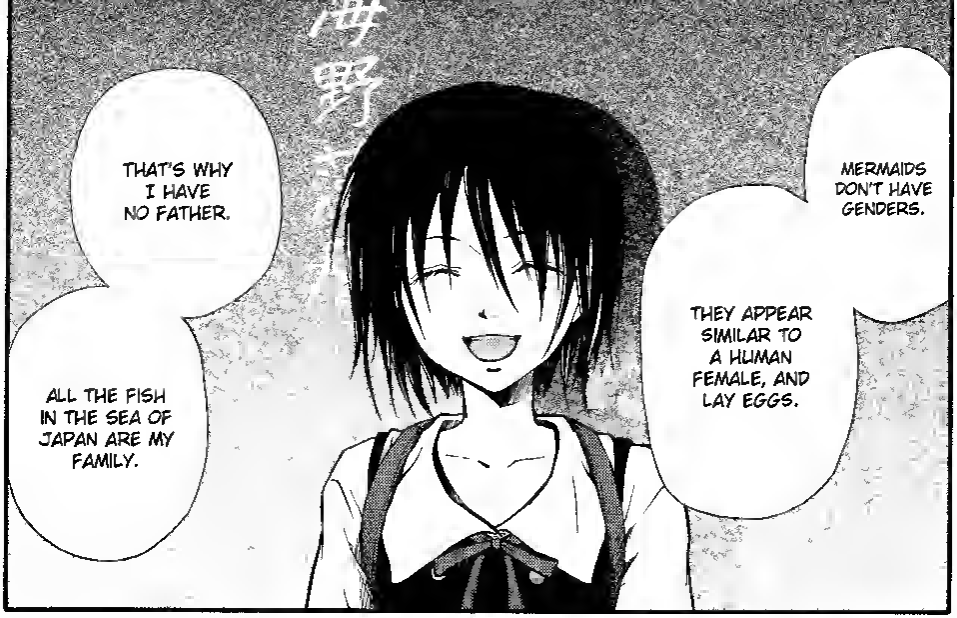
GASP
I...
I...
.....What?
I...
I...
I...
I'M UMINO MOKUZU!
What is this girl doing...

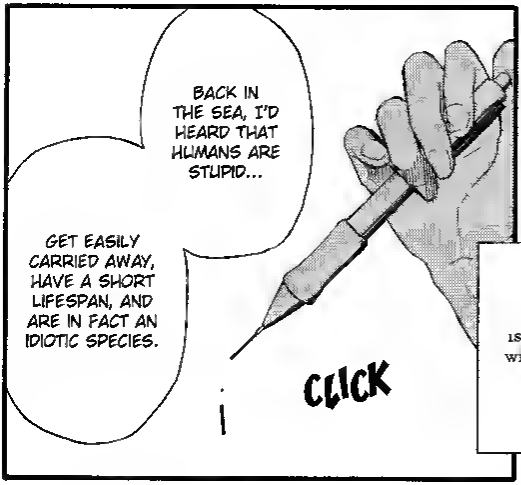

WEIRDO
WHOOSH
I HAVE A QUESTION!
Quiver
Quiver
Quiver

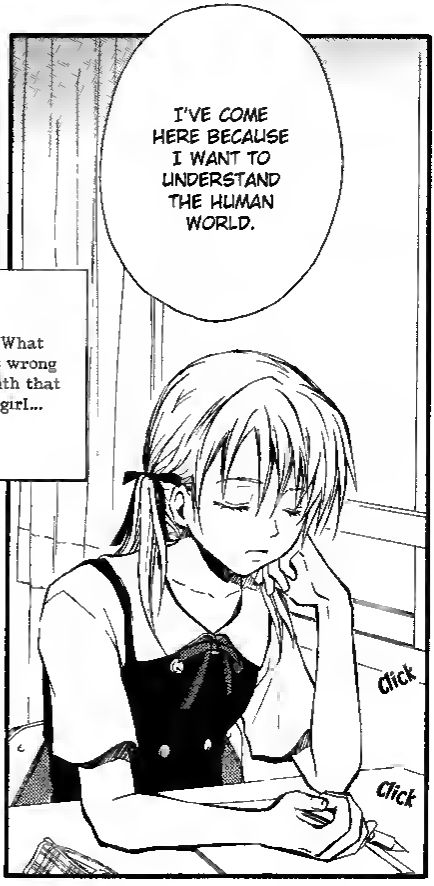
YOUR FATHER, IS HE "UMINO MASACHIKA"?

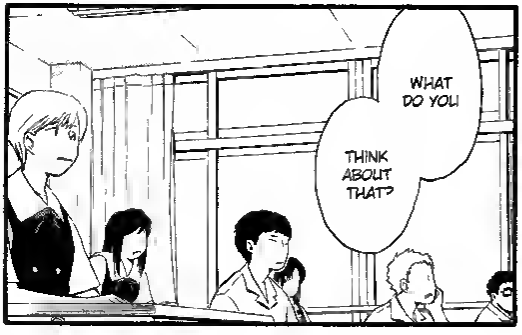

EH.. WHY DO YOU LIE?
I...
THAT IS. .
NOT TRUE!
THAT...
Whisper
HE REALLY IS?
FOR REAL?
Whisper

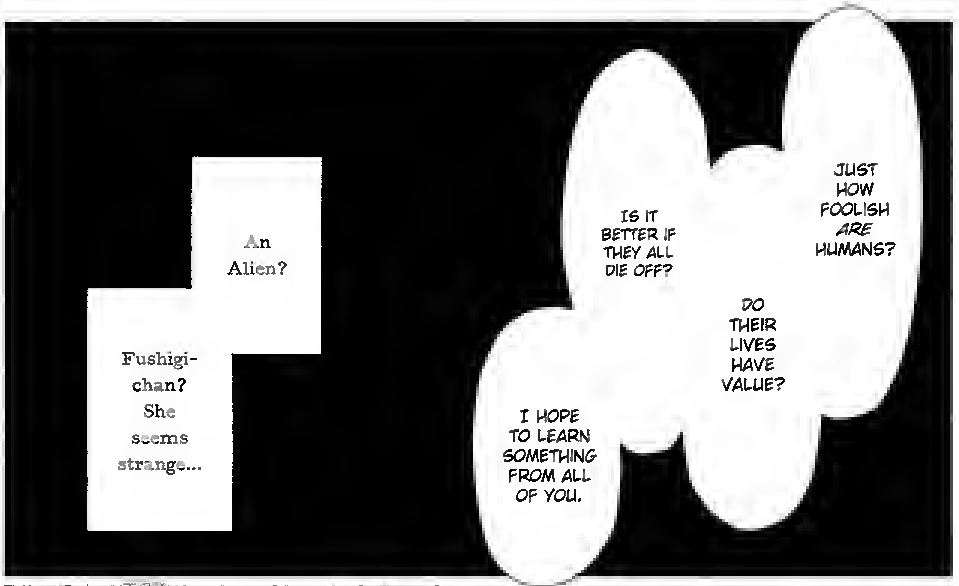
TL Note: Mokuzu used "boku" to say "I". "Boku" is a word usually only used by boys


MERMAIDS DON'T HAVE GENDERS.
THEY APPEAR SIMILAR TO A HUMAN FEMALE, AND LAY EGGS.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE NO FATHER.
ALL THE FISH IN THE SEA OF JAPAN ARE MY FAMILY.

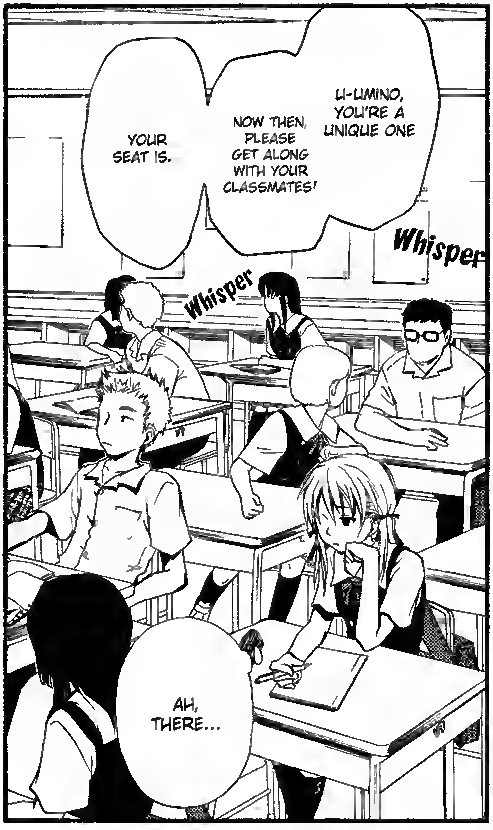

BACK IN THE SEA, I'D HEARD THAT HUMANS ARE STUPID...
GET EASILY CARRIED AWAY, HAVE A SHORT LIFESPAN, AND ARE IN FACT AN IDIOTIC SPECIES.
CLICK

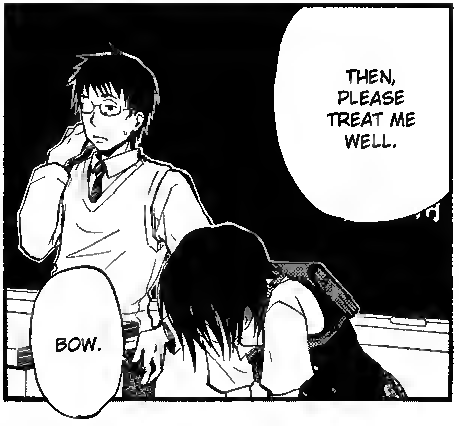

I'VE COME HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN WORLD.
What is wrong with that girl...
Click
Click

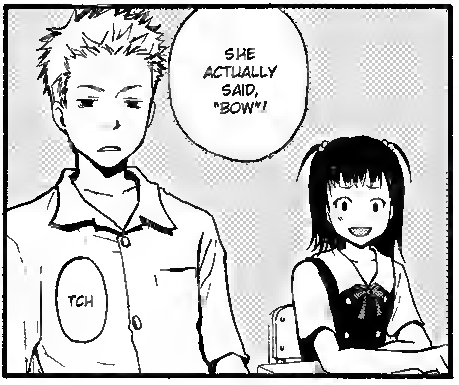

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?


An Alien?
Fushigi-chan? She seems strange...
JUST HOW FOOLISH ARE HUMANS?
IS IT BETTER IF THEY ALL DIE OFF?
DO THEIR LIVES HAVE VALUE?
I HOPE TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM ALL OF YOU.

TL Note: "Fushigi" (不思議) Means "strange", "mysterious" or "curious".





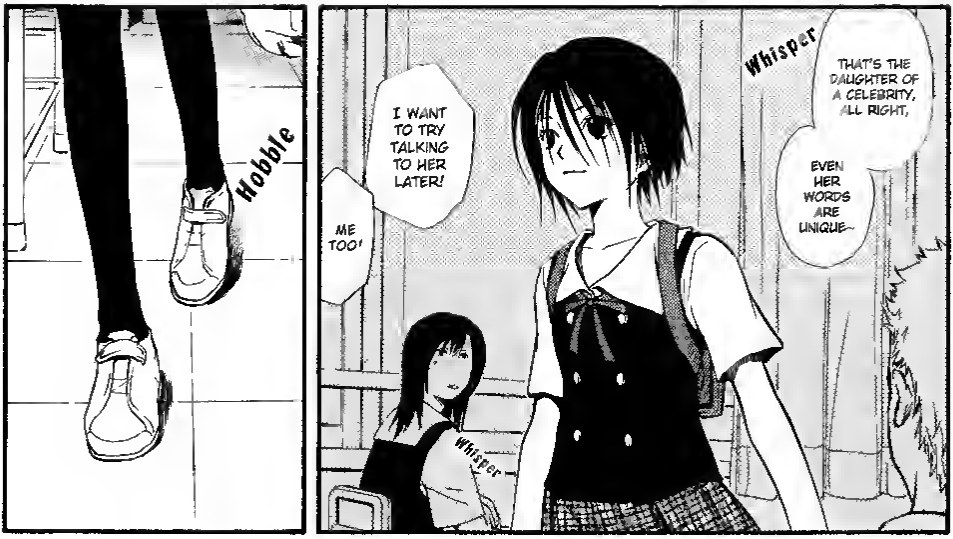


It must be because her family is rich that she can be so carefree.

Only a noble could act this way.

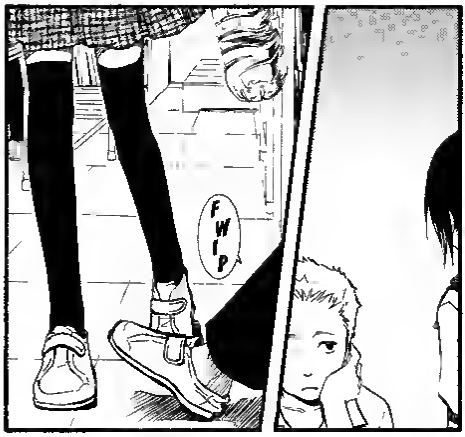
Could it be, she's just like everyone else?

Just wanting to live a more interesting and exciting life...

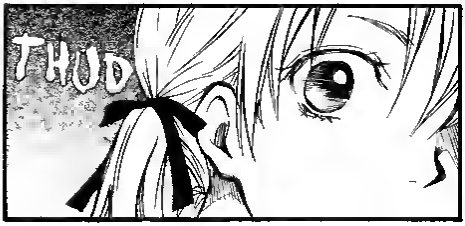


I won't bother with, nor be affected by, such trivial things that have nothing to do with my life.

I sat with an indifferent expression.

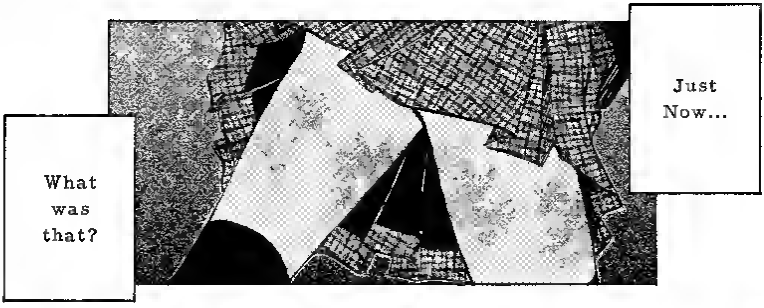

FWIP

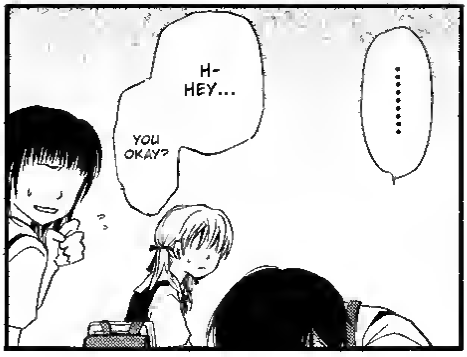
WHOOSH

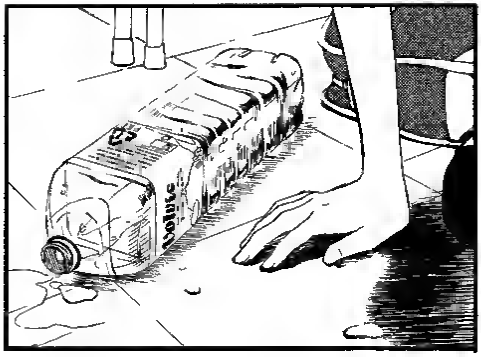

THUD

I had already decided this for myself.

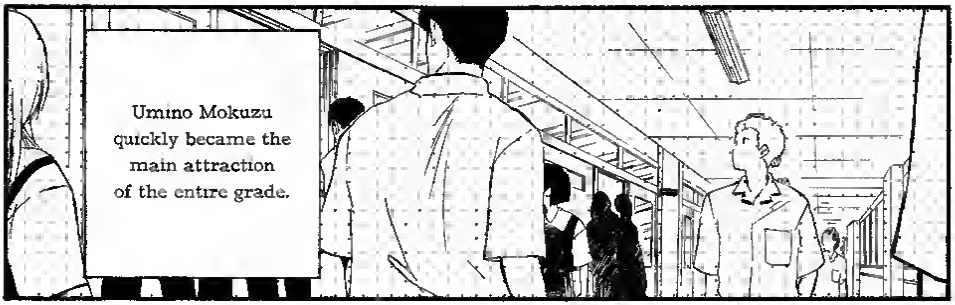
Hehe
NO WAY.

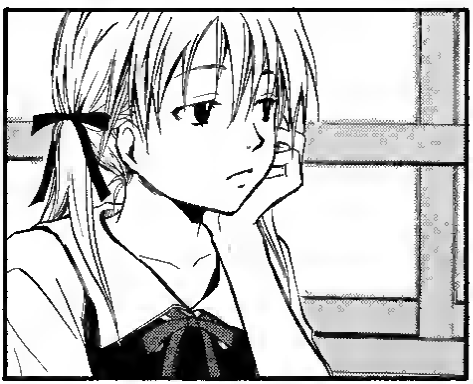

What was that?
Just Now...


H-HEY...
YOU OKAY?
.....



GO TO HELL!
...Me?
GLARE

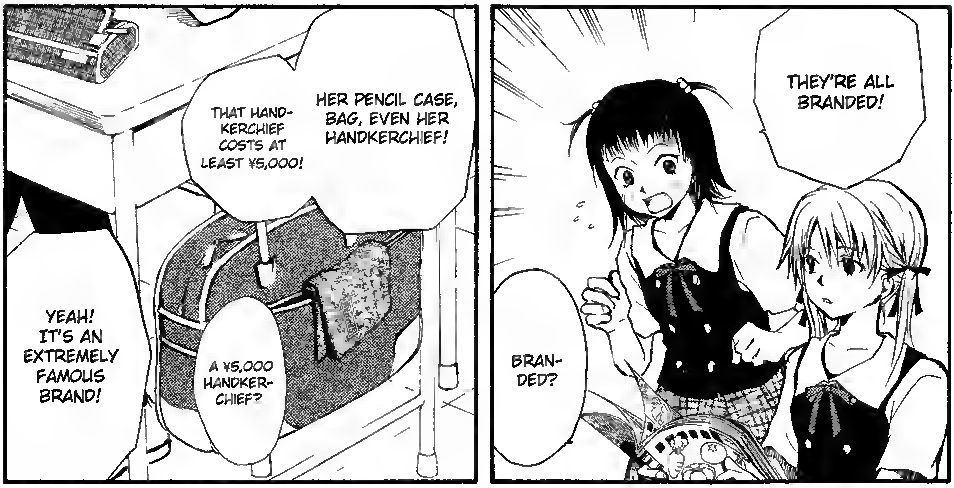

Umino Mokuzu quickly became the main attraction of the entire grade.



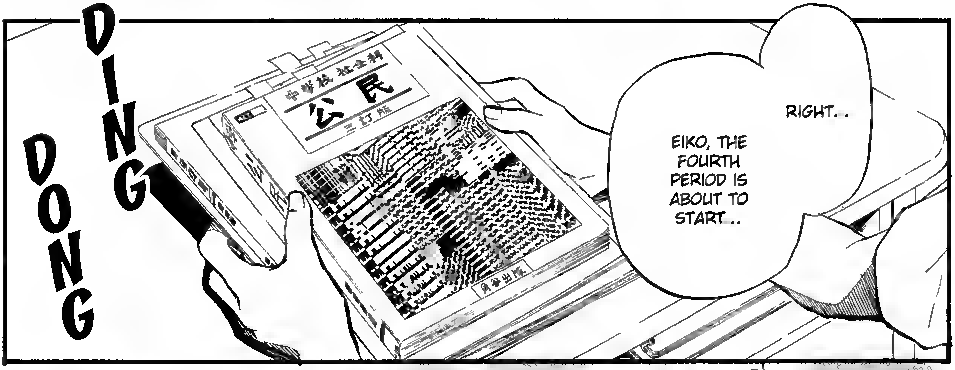
But she's also a very strange person.
SIGH... SHE IS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, AFTER ALL.

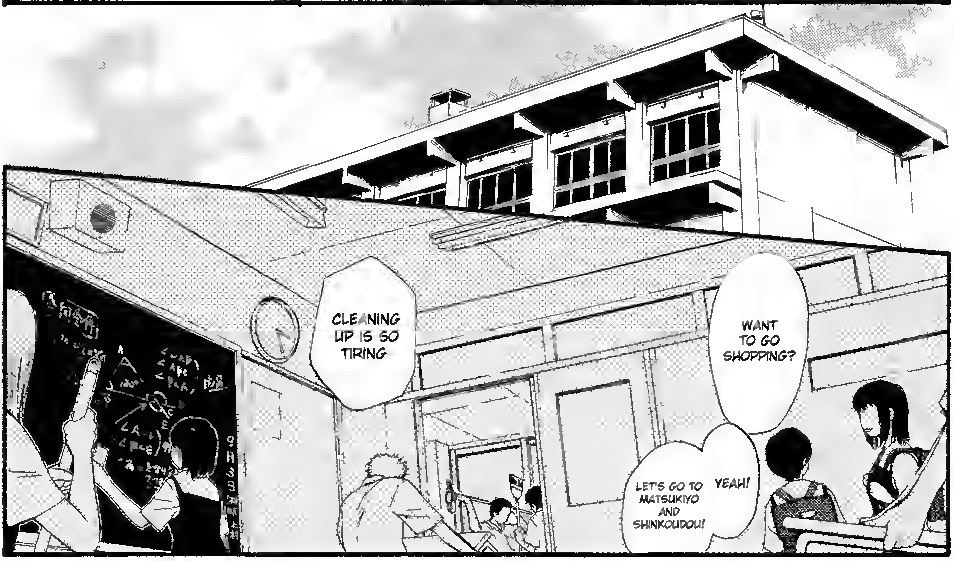
WOW~ SHE'S SO CUTE!
EVEN GUYS FROM OTHER CLASSES CAME TO SEE HER!

TCH!

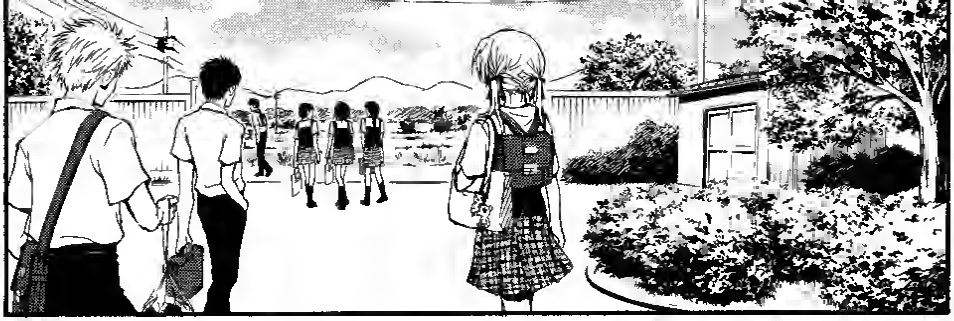

HER PENCIL CASE, BAG, EVEN HER HANDKERCHIEF!
THAT HANDKERCHIEF COSTS AT LEAST ¥5,000!
A ¥5,000 HANDKERCHIEF?
YEAH! IT'S AN EXTREMELY FAMOUS BRAND!
THEY'RE ALL BRANDED!
BRANDED?

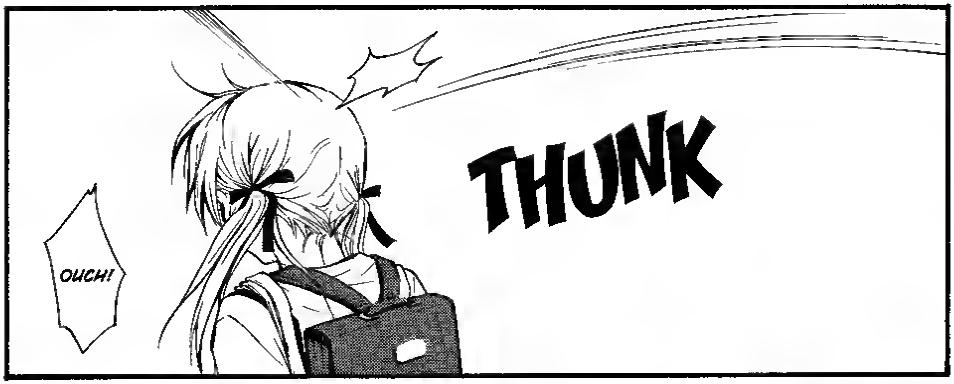
TL Note 5 000 yen is approximately $55 USD





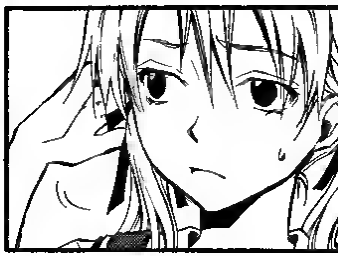
...WHAT DID SHE SAY TO YOU?
Gossip
Gossip
SHE SAID PLENTY...
THE OTHER GIRLS DON'T WANT TO TALK TO HER ANYMORE
REALLY!
WHAT A STRANGE PERSON!
WOULD A NORMAL PERSON SPEAK TO SOMEONE THEY'D JUST MET LIKE THAT!?
AND SHE IS REALLY AGGRESSIVE!
FWUMP
BYE!
THAT TIME WHEN THE WIND BLEW MURATA'S HAIR...
Bump
NO WAY!
IS THAT SO~
SCREE
YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY?
YOU'RE SO ANTI-SOCIAL, NAGISA.




THUNK
OUCH!

HEHE

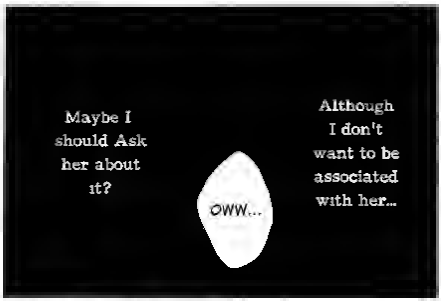
!?
lol
lol

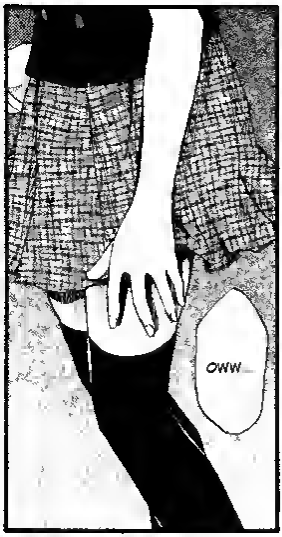


YOU CAME FROM OVER THERE, NOT THE MAIN GATE, RIGHT?
HUH?
WHAT'S OVER THERE?
...WHAT THE HELL?
THAT HURT.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
...THE RABBIT HUTCH.
WHY?
...YOU.
WHY, WHAT?

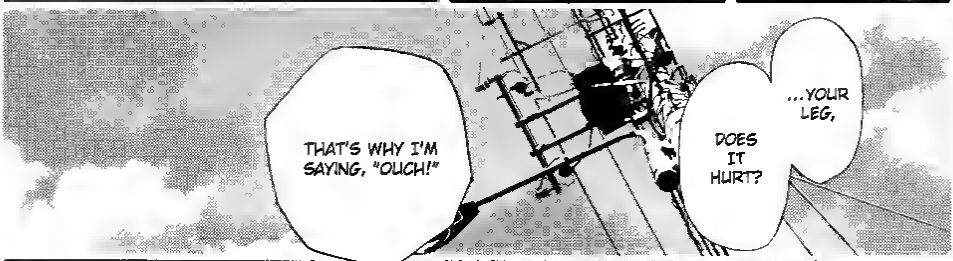
HOBBLE
HOBBLE

..AH


Maybe I should Ask her about it?
OWW...
Although I don't want to be associated with her...


OWW...

Hobble


THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING, "OUCH!"
DOES IT HURT?
...YOUR LEG,

wobble
wobble

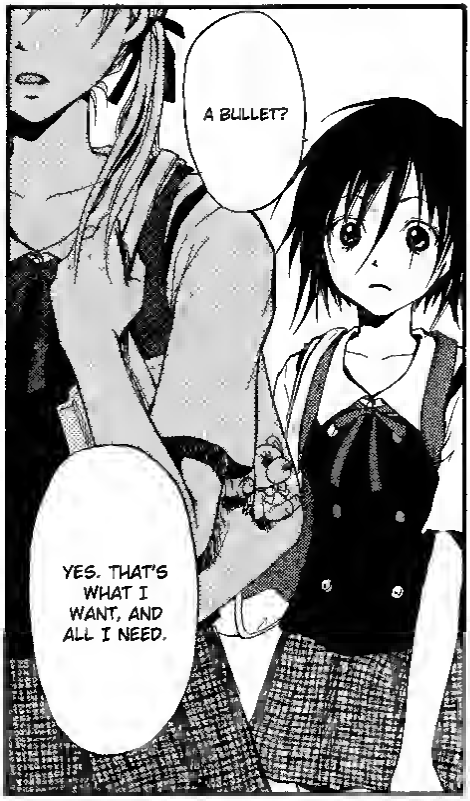
..THAT'S WHY I WAS ASKING.
I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO HER!

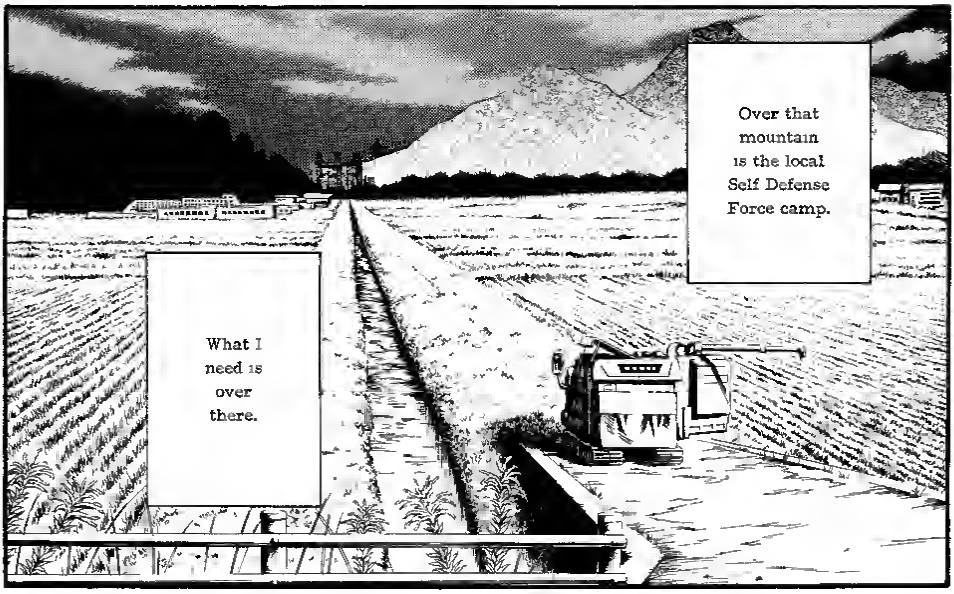
WHY DID YOU...?
SHE'S SO ANNOYING! PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

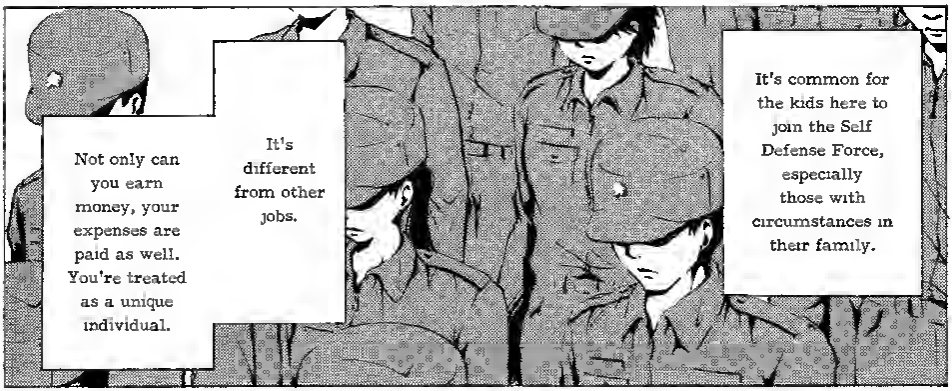
WHY ARE YOU NOT INTERESTED IN ME?

SO YOU WANT ME TO BE INTERESTED IN YOU?
...NOT REALLY.
WHAT?
YOU ARE A REALLY WEIRD TRANSFER STUDENT.
I'M NOT INTERESTED BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT A "BULLET"...

I DON'T CARE FOR ANYTHING ELSE.

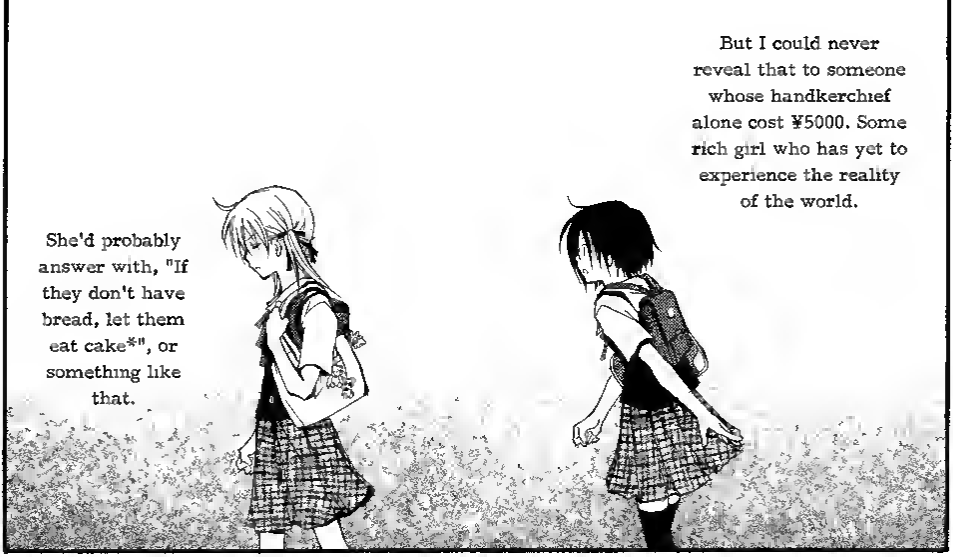

A BULLET?
YES. THAT'S WHAT I WANT, AND ALL I NEED.


What I need is over there.
Over that mountain is the local Self Defense Force camp.

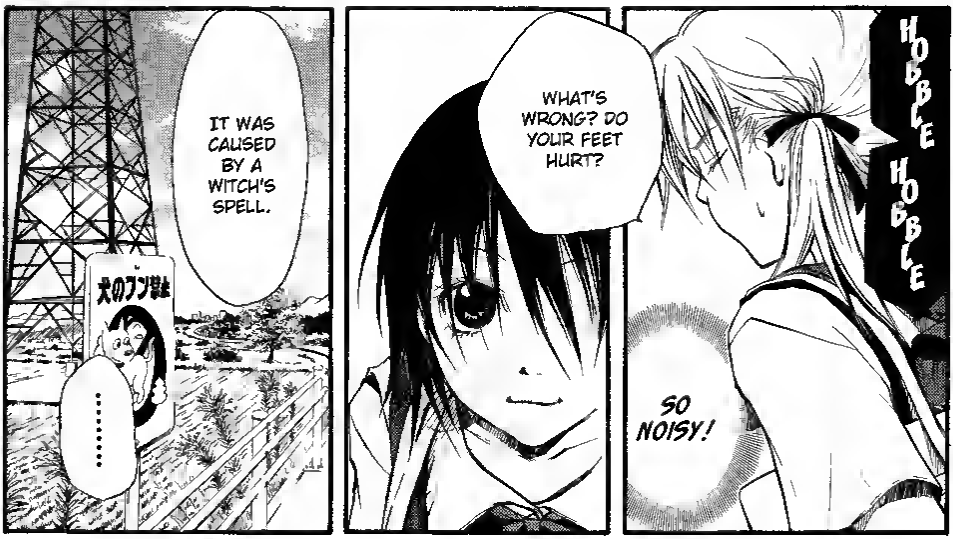

Not only can you earn money, your expenses are paid as well. You're treated as a unique individual.
It's different from other jobs.
It's common for the kids here to join the Self Defense Force, especially those with circumstances in their family.

That's my "bullet."

That's true power - the power to break through the reality of life.


But I could never reveal that to someone whose handkerchief alone cost ¥5000. Some rich girl who has yet to experience the reality of the world.
She'd probably answer with, "If they don't have bread, let them eat cake*", or something like that.

Note: This is a historically famous saying, commonly attributed to Marie Antoinette, an indulgent socialite commenting on the nation-wide famine in France. It's an ignorant statement made by someone with no concept of common life.

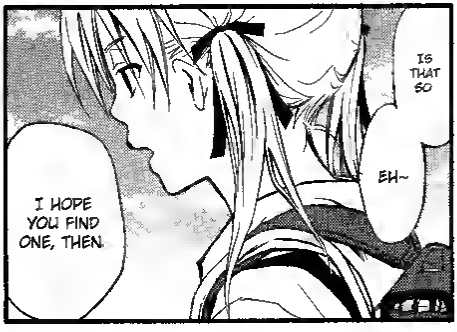


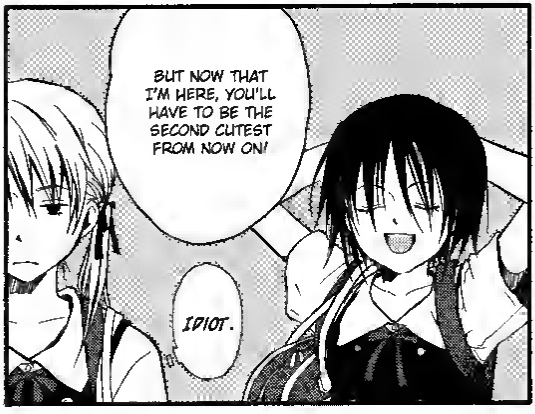
I Know.
That's the scenario from "The Little Mermaid", isn't it?
HOBBLE
I WAS MADE TO WALK WITH A PAINFUL LIMP, ON AN IMPERFECT PAIR OF LEGS.
IN RETURN FOR COMING ASHORE AND LIVING AS A HUMAN,

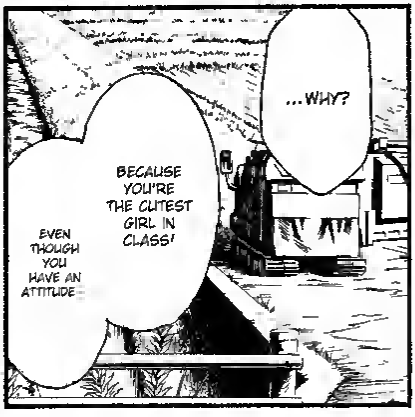
SO I HAVE TO FULFILL MY WISH NO MATTER WHAT.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NAGISA YAMADA.
AH! I'M NOT KIDDING!
AND THEN DISAPPEAR INTO THE FOAM.
AND THEN THE WITCH TOLD ME THAT IF MY WISH ISN'T FULFILLED, I'LL TURN INTO A SCRAP OF SEAWEED,
ARE YOU RETARDED?
THIS IS COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS!
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUNNY, BUT I GUESS NO ONE LAUGHED!
THOSE WERE LIES-
SOMETHING ABOUT "HUMANS ARE STUPID"...
YOUR WISH, WAS IT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER?
ACTUALLY, I...
LET ME TELL YOU A SECRET THEN!

I AM HERE TO FIND A REAL FRIEND!
A PRECIOUS FRIEND...
SOMEONE WHO WOULD GO OUT OF THEIR WAY FOR ME.
A REALLY GOOD FRIEND.

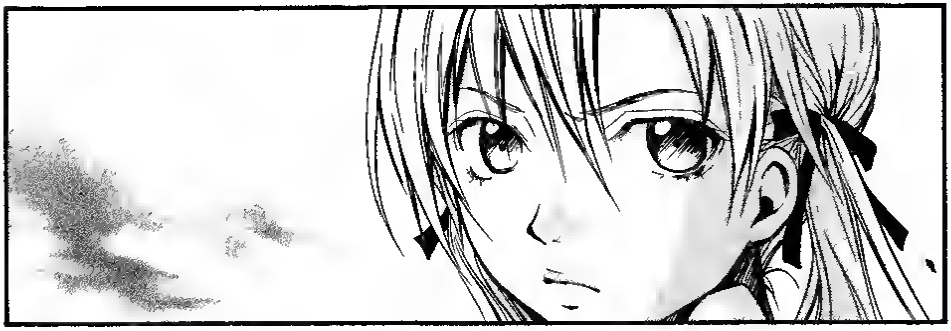
NAGISA YAMADA!
IT'D BE GREAT IF IT WAS YOU!


IS THAT SO
EH~
I HOPE YOU FIND ONE, THEN.


BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE THE SECOND CUTEST FROM NOW ON!
IDIOT.


...WHY?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CUTEST GIRL IN CLASS!
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE AN ATTITUDE

BE MY FRIEND.

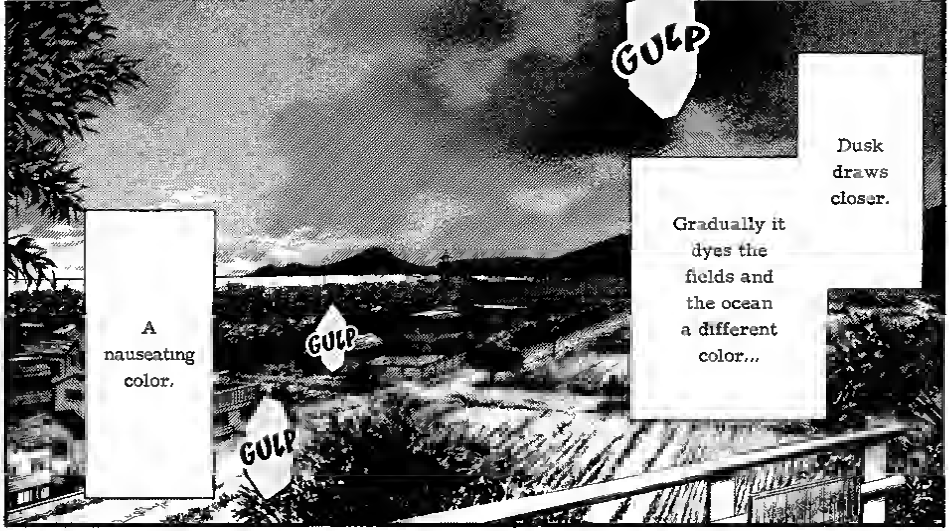


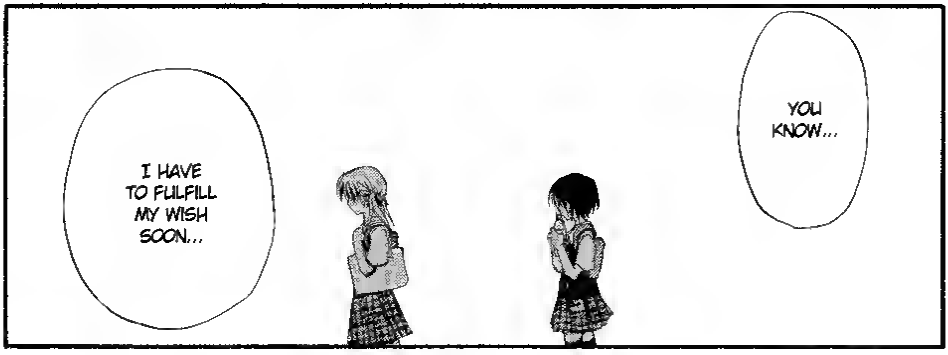
GO TO HELL.
...YOU. DIDN'T YOU TELL ME TO "GO TO HELL" THIS MORNING?
I FIND IT HARD TO BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE WHO SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT.

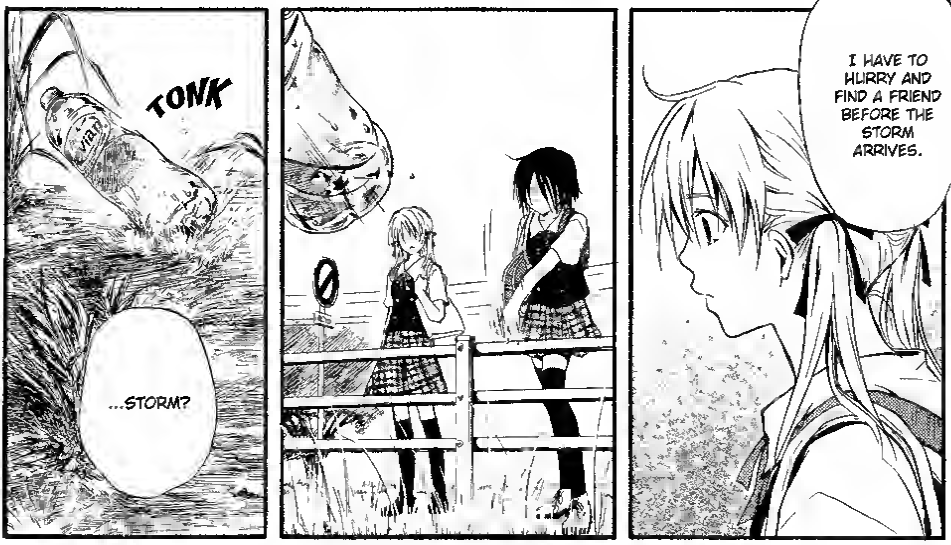
THAT'S AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE!
ARE YOU STUPID...?
?

THAT'S AN EXPRESSION OF HATE!

GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
This girl is clearly different from everyone else.
.....
No...


GULP
Dusk draws closer.
Gradually it dyes the fields and the ocean a different color...
A nauseating color.
GULP
GULP


I HAVE TO FULFILL MY WISH SOON...
YOU KNOW...


TONK
...STORM?
I HAVE TO HURRY AND FIND A FRIEND BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES.

ALTHOUGH HUMANS DON'T SEEM TO NOTICE...
...HUH?
IN THIS TOWN BY THE SEA, ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS...
THERE'S A BIG STORM THAT THE WEATHER FORECAST DOESN'T REPORT
THUMP
I HAVE TO FIND A FRIEND BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES.
BECAUSE I'M A MERMAID.

MERMAIDS...
ALTHOUGH GENDERLESS, ARE FEMININE CREATURES.
EVERY ONE OF THEM IS BORN HERE IN THE OCEAN, AND THEN THEY SPREAD OUT TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD.
BUT DURING THE BREEDING SEASON, ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS, THEY ALWAYS RETURN HERE.
IT WILL COME THIS YEAR TOO!
THERE'S STILL A MONTH LEFT UNTIL THE 3RD OF OCTOBER
THE INTENSE STORM, ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS,
IS THE BREEDING SEASON FOR THE MERMAIDS.
I SUPPOSE NO ONE ACTUALLY REMEMBERS,
BUT THERE WAS A STORM HERE TEN YEARS AGO, TOO.
RUSTLE

My father...

Was swallowed by the waves, and died.

I REMEMBER...

THE STORM.

IF BY THEN, I HAVE YET TO FULFILL MY WISH, I'LL RETURN TO THE SEA,

TO TURN INTO FOAM.

TO DISAPPEAR.

YAMADA NAGISA!
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH!

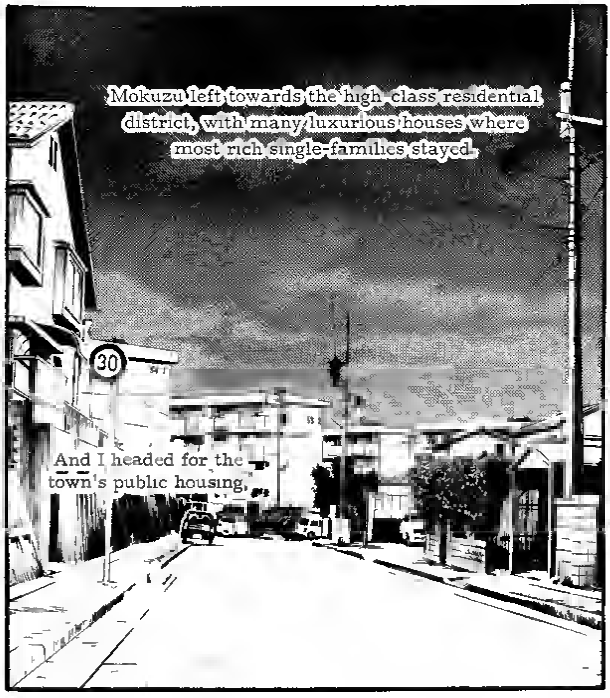
After that, neither of us spoke another word to each other.

Despite her limp, Mokuzu managed to catch up to me.

But I decided to pay no attention to her.

As I thought of never speaking to her again...

I quickened my pace.


Mokuzu left towards the high-class residential district, with many luxurious houses where most rich single-families stayed.
30
And I headed for the town's public housing.

Back then, I took Mokuzu as someone...
Who was Trying to trample all over me.
A hateful freak who loves to lie!
That was what I thought back then.

satou kashi no dangan wa uchinukenai
a lollipop or a bullet

scene 2: HEAVEN'S CREATURES

Translation shitoyuki
Proofread monkey
Edit monkey
Quality Check. kate

Tranquil Spring
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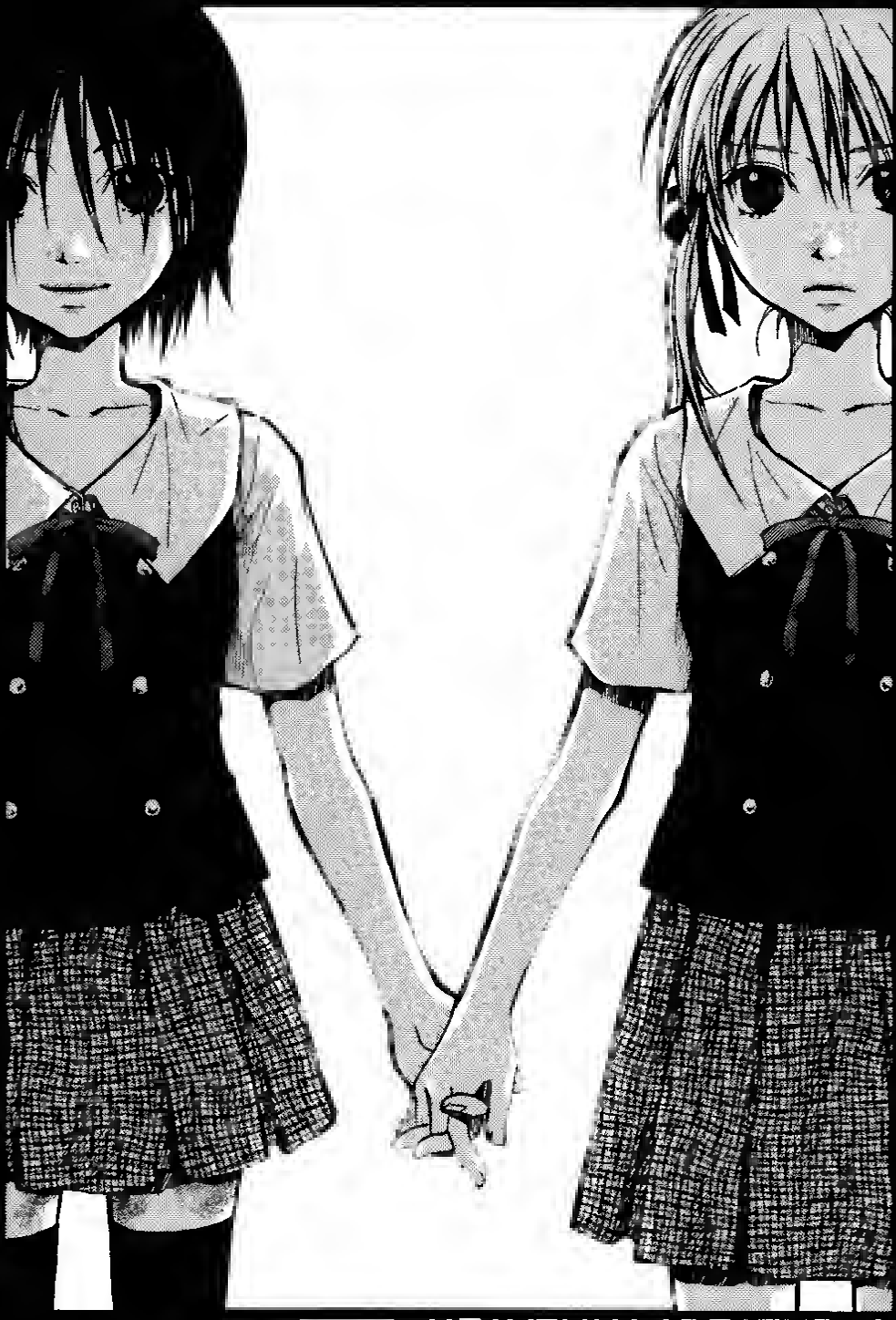
Scene.2

CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
IF MY WISH CAN NOT BE FULFILLED, I'LL TURN INTO FOAM AND DISAPPEAR.
BECAUSE I AM A MERMAID
THERE WAS A STORM 10 YEARS AGO TOO, YOU KNOW.
OUCH!

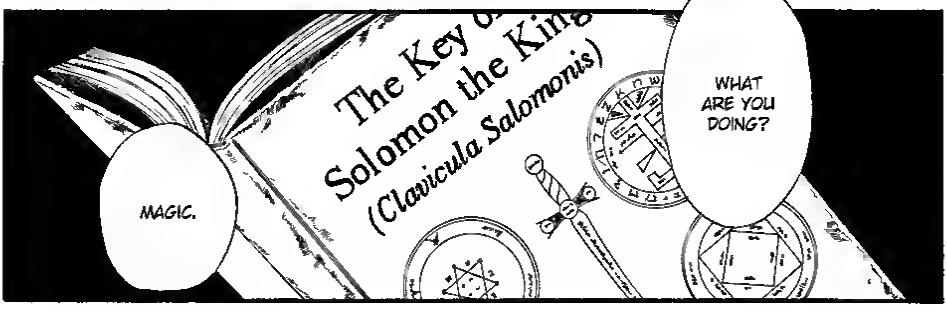


Scene.2 HEAVENLY CREATURES

高野書房

ONII-CHAN...
SLIDE

YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?
WELCOME HOME, NAGISA.


MAGIC.
Solomon the
(Clavicula Salomonis)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TOMORROW'S FORECAST FOR THE CHUGOKU REGION—
SO I SEE.
RATTLE

My brother, Tomohiko...

But at the same time, he's just as surprisingly useless.
Is beautiful, gentle natured...
And shockingly intelligent.

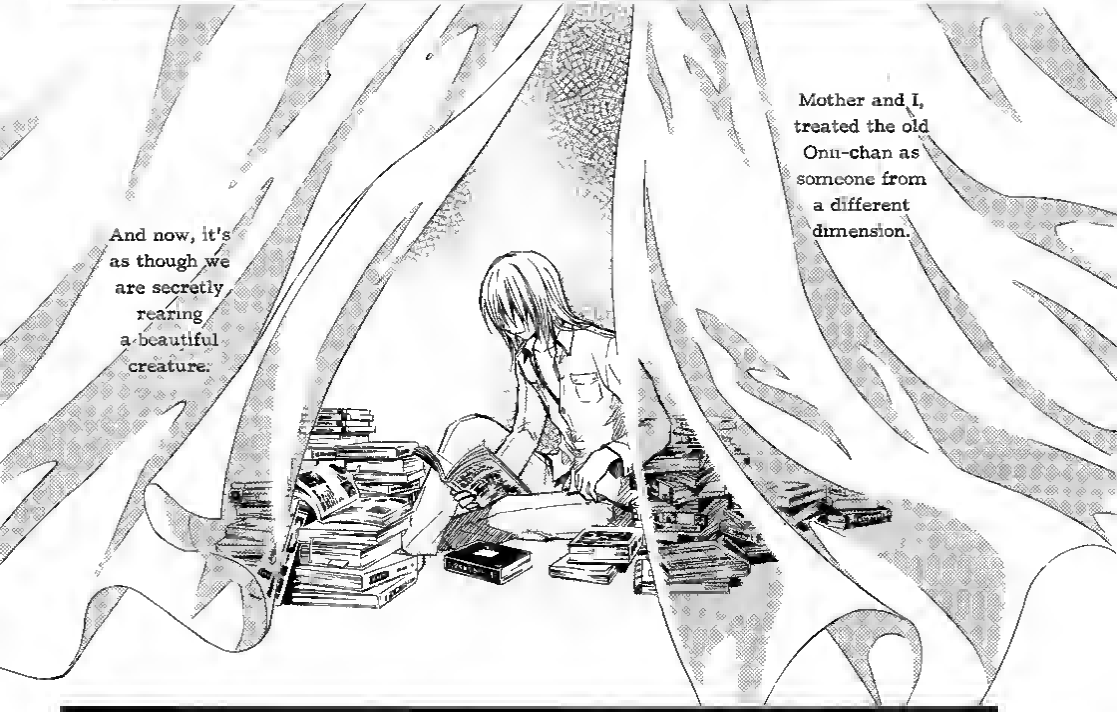
Ever since Father passed away, my mother had pinned all her hopes on my brother, who excelled in his studies...
He was like a magical tool that could relieve her of our life of suffering.
But this son, who once had made her proud...
Was now a joke among the neighbors.
TOMOHIKO-KUN HAS THAT RATHER POPULAR CONDITION, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT? HI... HI...
HIKI-...
SIP
I think Onii-chan is a modern-day noble.

There's no need to work,
no need to live precariously.

You can survive by watching, thinking
and speaking of what you're interested in.

He has not stepped out of the house,
since dropping out of school in his
second year of high school. It's been 3
years, since then...

And onii-chan has become even more
beautiful than before...



But...

As for me, who is
living in reality...

This is very expensive.

Mom's salary, the family assistance fund, and the insurance money from father's death are gradually being used up.
In order to let him continue with his collection of strange items...

NAGISA.
WHAT IS IT?
AFTER YOU GRADUATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...

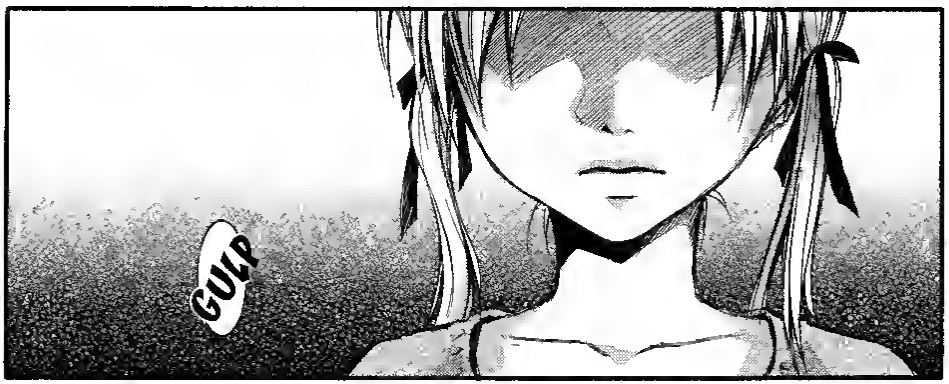
AFTER YOU GRADUATE...
DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE SELF DEFENSE FORCE?

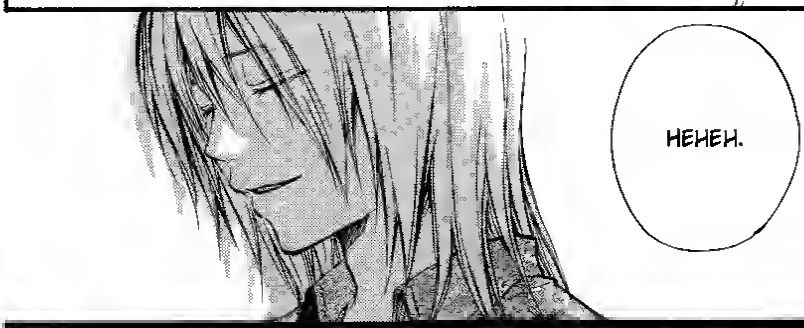
I BROUGHT A MAN HOME!
I'M BACK!
GA-HA HA HA!
MM.
SEEMS LIKE HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME
IT'S BEEN 3 MONTHS SINCE HE LEFT TO BUY SOMETHING!
GLZT
BEAUTIFUL JAPAN

YEAH.

I'VE ALREADY SAID IT IN MY STUDY PLAN...
I DON'T INTEND TO GO ON TO HIGH SCHOOL.
INSTEAD...
I'M JOINING THE SELF DEFENSE FORCE.
LATELY, THEY DO.
I'VE ASKED THEM, AND THEY TOLD ME THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY FIVE GIRLS IN THE GROUP, ALL FROM THIS TOWN, TOO.
THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM BOYS, AND BEING A MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATE IS FINE.
DO THEY ACCEPT GIRLS, TOO?
SALARY?
ALSO, YOU CAN RECEIVE YOUR SALARY IMMEDIATELY.

...AAH.
NAGISA'S FAVORITE.
YUP.
BULLETS.
YES...
IS THAT IT?


GULP



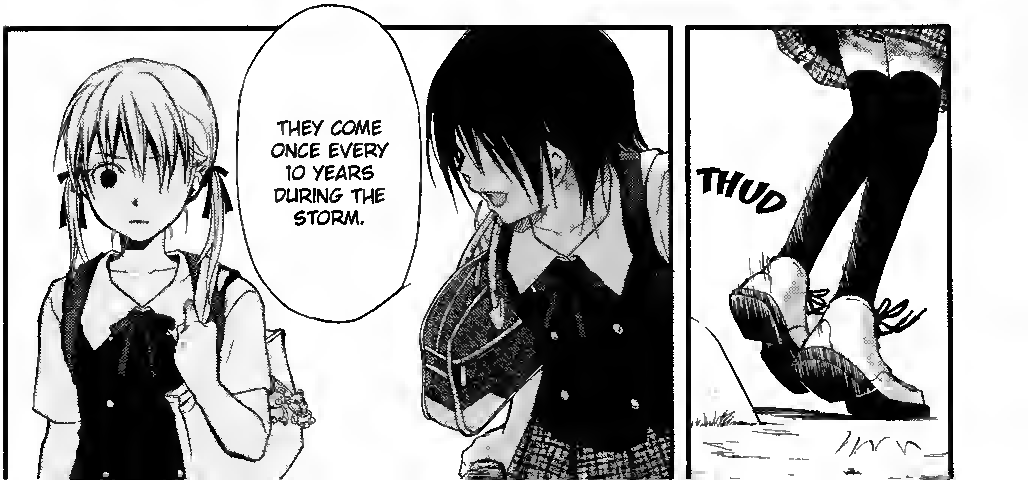
Fighting the urge to cry...

I swallowed that feeling,
along with my taro stew.

PLOP
BONK
THAT'S GREAT, NAGISA YAMADA!
AHAHAHA!
TCH.

IT'S FREAKING HOT OVER THERE.
WOMM
I'VE BEEN TO AFRICA, TOO.
THE CHINA SEA IS REALLY INTERESTING, YOU KNOW.

Someone needs to sink this person to the bottom of the sea...
WILL RETURN TO THE SEA OF JAPAN TO BREED.
AND SOON, ALL THE MERMAIDS IN THE WORLD...


THEY COME ONCE EVERY 10 YEARS DURING THE STORM.
THUD

2 — 2
WAIT UP, NAGISA.
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?
I'M NOT LISTENING!
Shuffle
Shuffle
YESTERDAY, WHEN SHE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE HALLWAY, SHE EVEN STARTED SINGING SOME WEIRD SONG!
SHE SOMETIMES LAUGHS TO HERSELF IN A CORNER.
WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO SPEAK TO HER, NOT ONLY DOES SHE IGNORE THEM...
WHY ARE YOU COMING TO SCHOOL WITH HER!?
AT LEAST CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS RIGHT—
YOU DON'T SAY...
THIS... THIS TEACHING MATERIAL...
Likewise...
I HEARD HER FATHER WAS ARRESTED FOR ABUSING DRUGS
Whisper
WASN'T HER MOTHER AN ACTRESS?
Whisper
It's only been three days since she transferred here, and already none of the girls are willing to speak to Mokuzu.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE CUTE, IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER IF YOU'RE A FREAK...?
Mokuzu doesn't pay much attention to them, and still gives nonsensical replies
The boys are becoming more wary when they approach her.
UMINO-SAN, THAT...
HEY...
YAMADA...
THAT'S NOT IT...
ALTHOUGH I DO WANT TO SEE THE NOTES TOO
UMM
LET ME SEE...
OK.
WHAT IS IT, KANAJIMA?
YOU WANT TO BORROW THE LESSON NOTES?

CAN THE THREE OF US GO FOR A MOVIE, OR SOME-THING...
IS THAT OKAY?
Rustle
UMINO AND YOU...
NO, ERM I MEAN, COULD YOU INVITE UMINO...
THAT... WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HER IS PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?
UMINO AND YOU.
DON'T SAY THAT! EVEN KANAJIMA TOO...
I'M NOT ON GOOD TERMS WITH HER! IT'S NOT LIKE WE TALK OR ANYTHING.

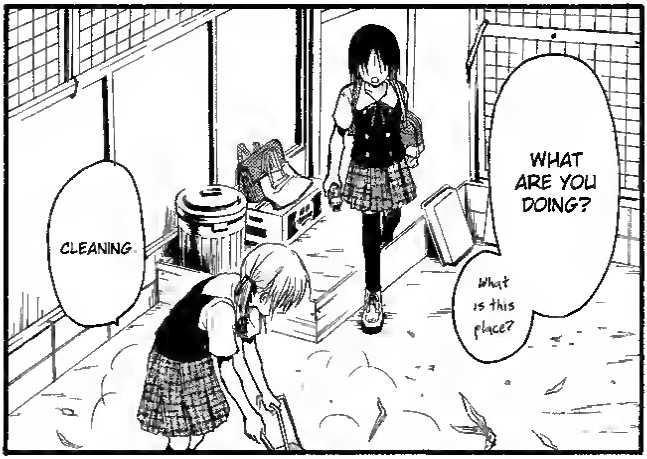
SHE THREW A BOTTLE AT ME FROM BEHIND...
THAT'S BECAUSE.
THIS MORNING, TOO...
BUT YOU WALKED HOME WITH HER ON THE FIRST DAY SHE TRANSFERRED HERE, RIGHT?
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS.
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD ASK PEOPLE FROM THE HIGH SOCIETY, LIKE EIKO.
TCH.
WHAT THE HELL
PFFT
...
WA-WAIT A MINUTE!
HA HA HA HA HA
YOU CAN BE PRETTY INTERESTING SOMETIMES, YAMADA!
HIGH SOCIETY...

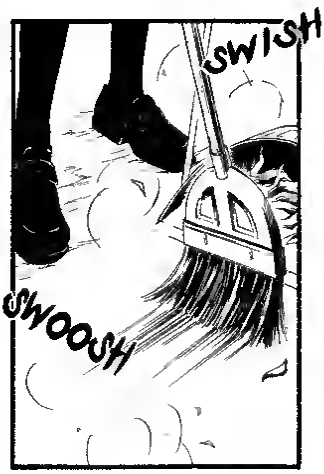
THAT... WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
This is the first time...
I've seen that side of Kanajima...
Then...
LET'S START WITH THE SHORT-RANGED CAPITALISM IN JAPAN DURING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION...
Zzzz
HE ACTUALLY FELL ASLEEP!
Kanajima and Mokuzu...
Peek

Unbelievable...

I GOT IT
OK
Hobble
PLUNK
FWOOSH
TCH.
HAH

...OH?
HE ASKED HER HIMSELF!!
THE BOY WITH THE HEDGEHOG HAIR CAME TO ME EARLIER. HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HOPING THAT THE THREE OF US COULD WATCH A MOVIE TOGETHER.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
UHH, LOOK...
BUT, I WANT TO GO WITH YAMADA—
YOU TWO CAN HAVE FUN TOGETHER THEN. YOU'RE THE ONE KANAJIMA WANTED TO GO WITH, ANYWAY.
FINE, THREE PEOPLE IT IS, THEN...
YAY!
EEH!?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
What is this place?
CLEANING


SWISH
SWOOSH

WHAT...
WHAT IS THAT!?
WHAT IS WHAT—
YOU MEAN THE RABBITS?

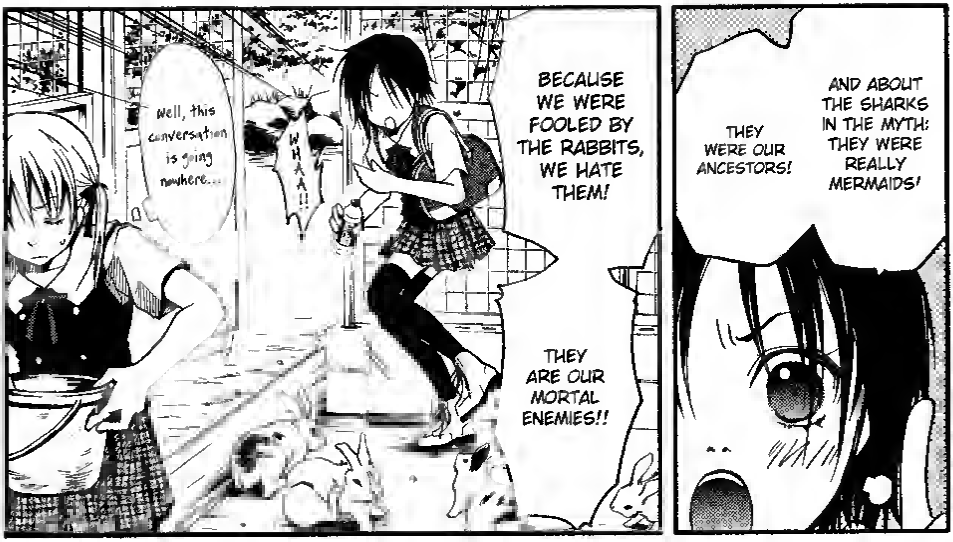
!?
Rustle
Rustle

AIEEE!
CRASH

GULP
GULP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THE RABBITS!?
...I'M CLEANING UP AND FEEDING THEM...
BECAUSE I'M THEIR KEEPER.
SWISH
THEY ARE THE MORTAL ENEMY OF MERMAIDS!
RABBITS?
That sharp!
sniffle
CHOMP!
A LONG LONG TIME AGO, IN ORDER TO CROSS THE OCEAN, THE RABBITS LIED TO THE SHARKS
WHEN THE LIE WAS FINALLY EXPOSED, THE RABBITS WERE NAKED!
THE END.

THUS, "THE WHITE HARE OF INABA"** BECAME A MYTH OF THIS TOWN.
THE OOKUNINUSHI* TRIED MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, AND FINALLY FOUND A CURE THAT COULD TREAT THE RABBITS.

*Okuninushi (大国主) is a Shinto divinity. His name literally translates to "Great Land Master" and is believed he was originally the ruler of Izumo Province. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%8Ckuninushi]
**The "White Hare of Inaba" (因幡の白兎) is a well known, ancient myth from the oldest surviving Japanese book, the Kojiki. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hare_of_Inaba]


Well, this conversation is going nowhere...
WHAA!!
BECAUSE WE WERE FOOLED BY THE RABBITS, WE HATE THEM!
THEY ARE OUR MORTAL ENEMIES!!
THEY WERE OUR ANCESTORS!
AND ABOUT THE SHARKS IN THE MYTH: THEY WERE REALLY MERMAIDS!

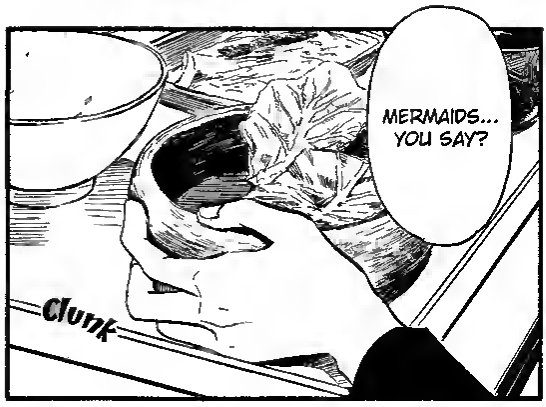
Munch
Munch

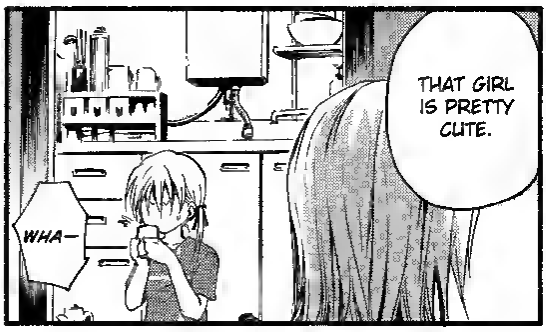
NAGISA YAMADA IS THE KEEPER...
I AM.

IS THERE ANY FUN IN DOING THIS?
Munch

THAT'S IT?

DO YOU KEEP ANY OTHER ANIMALS?
NOPE.

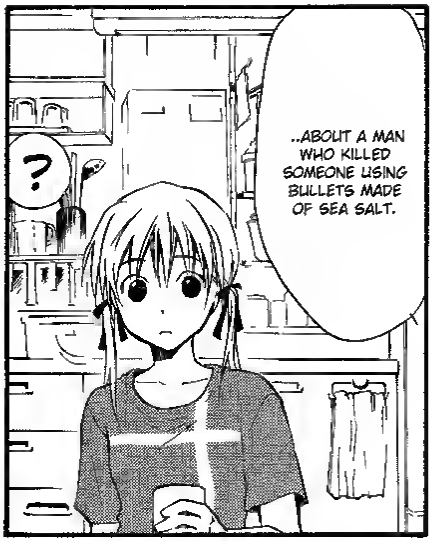

MERMAIDS... YOU SAY?
Clunk

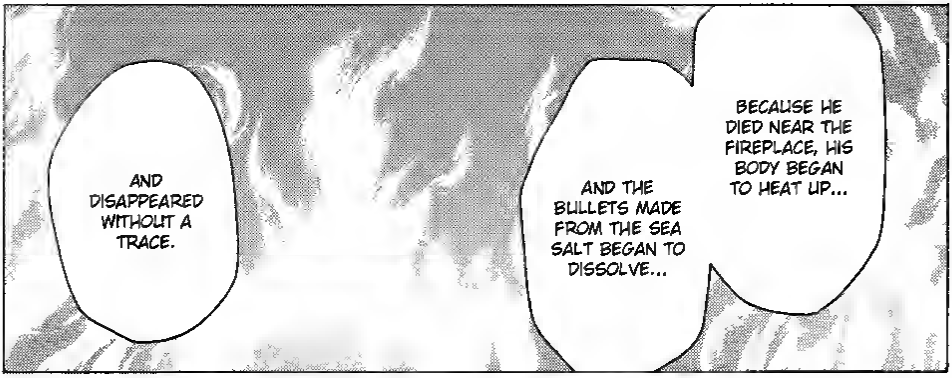

THAT GIRL IS PRETTY CUTE.
WHA—

NAGISA...
DO YOU KNOW OF THIS STORY?

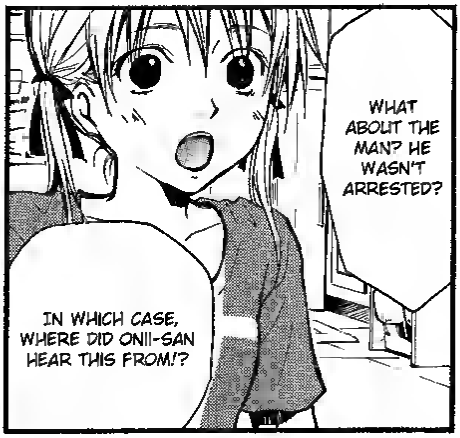
WHICH PART OF HER IS CUTE!?
I, FOR ONE, AM REALLY BOTHERED!

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
THE MAN MADE BULLETS OUT OF INCREDIBLY HARD SEA SALT...
HE THEN HAD HIS ENEMY KILLED NEXT TO A FIREPLACE.


?
..ABOUT A MAN WHO KILLED SOMEONE USING BULLETS MADE OF SEA SALT.


AND DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.
AND THE BULLETS MADE FROM THE SEA SALT BEGAN TO DISSOLVE...
BECAUSE HE DIED NEAR THE FIREPLACE, HIS BODY BEGAN TO HEAT UP...

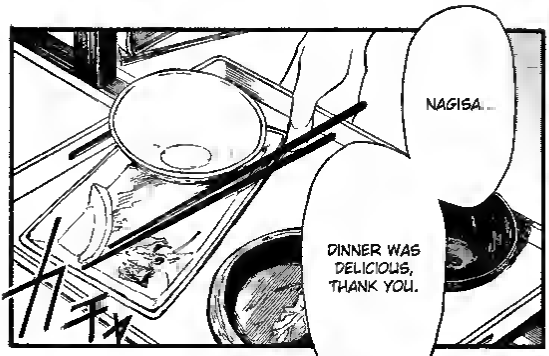
Heh
HOW WAS IT DONE!?
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
WAS HE ARREST-ED?


IN WHICH CASE, WHERE DID ONII-SAN HEAR THIS FROM!?
WHAT ABOUT THE MAN? HE WASN'T ARRESTED?

DON'T LET THAT LITTLE DETAIL DISAPPOINT YOU.
AWW MAN...
IT'S JUST A FICTICIOUS STORY...
BECAUSE A DETECTIVE APPEARED, AND SAW THROUGH HIS PLOT.
...AH.
...YEAH.
BUT UMINO MOKUZU'S LIES...
THEY JUST TEND TO IRRITATE ME.
NAGISA..
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO ENJOY THE FUN IN LIES.

SIMPLY PUT...
SHE'S *THAT*, RIGHT?
"CANDY BULLETS"
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK

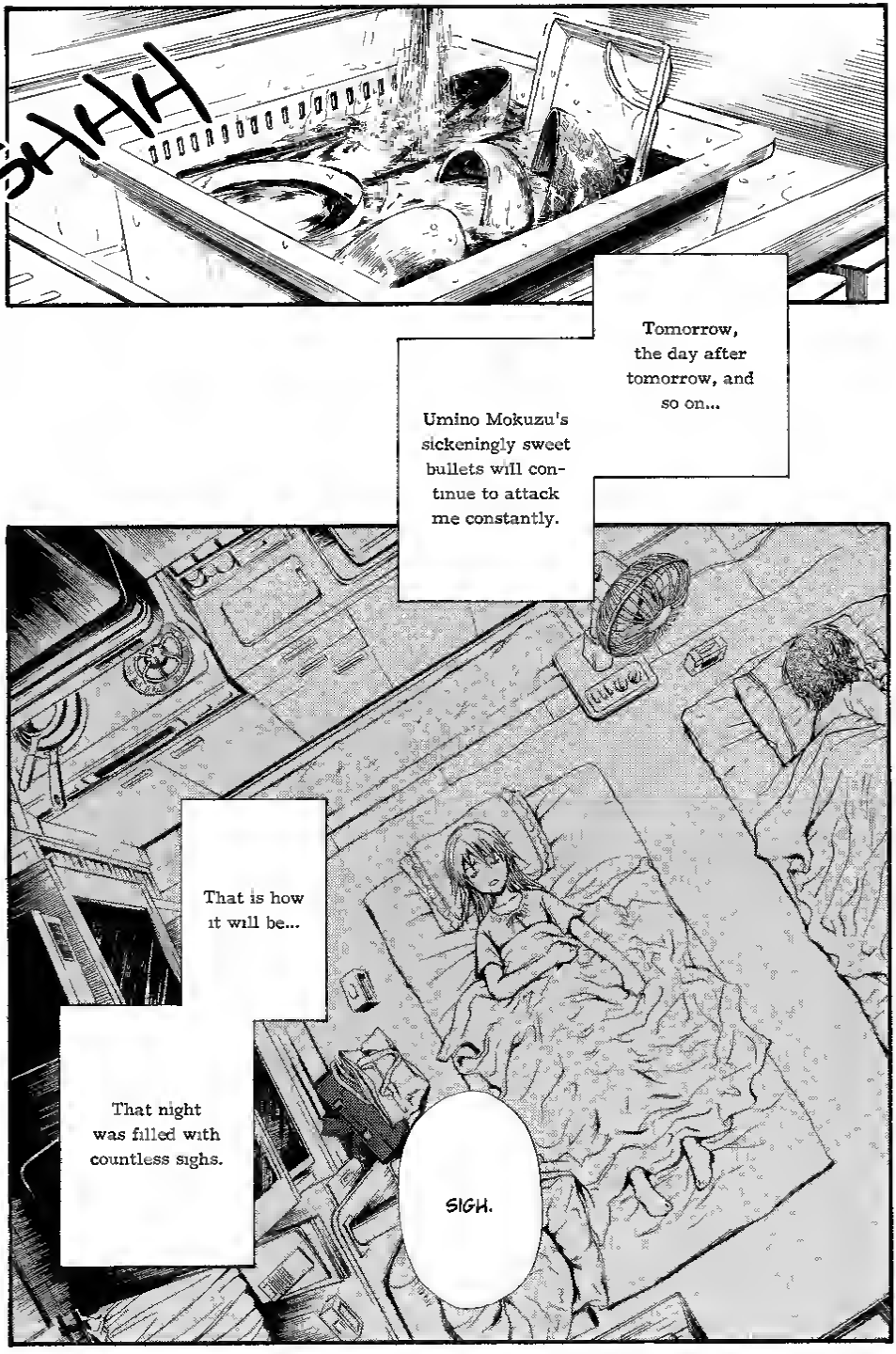
COMPARED TO THE LIVE AMMUNITION THAT NAGISA WANTS TO FIRE, SHE'S DIFFERENT.
AN IMAGINARY BULLET, POWERLESS AND WITHOUT PHYSICAL FORM.
DISSOLVING IN THE BODY...
FROM NAGISA'S POINT OF VIEW, IT MUST BE A VERY POINTLESS BULLET, RIGHT?


NAGISA...
DINNER WAS DELICIOUS, THANK YOU.

...

...YOU'RE WELCOME.

SIGH...


FSHHH
Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, and so on...
Umino Mokuzu's sickeningly sweet bullets will continue to attack me constantly.
That is how it will be...
That night was filled with countless sighs.
SIGH.

satou kashi no dangan wa uchinukenai
a lollipop or a bullet

scene 3: LOVELESS

Translation shiroyuki
Proofread Babelglyph
Edit monkey
Quality Check. kate

Tranquil Spring
www.tranquilspring.com

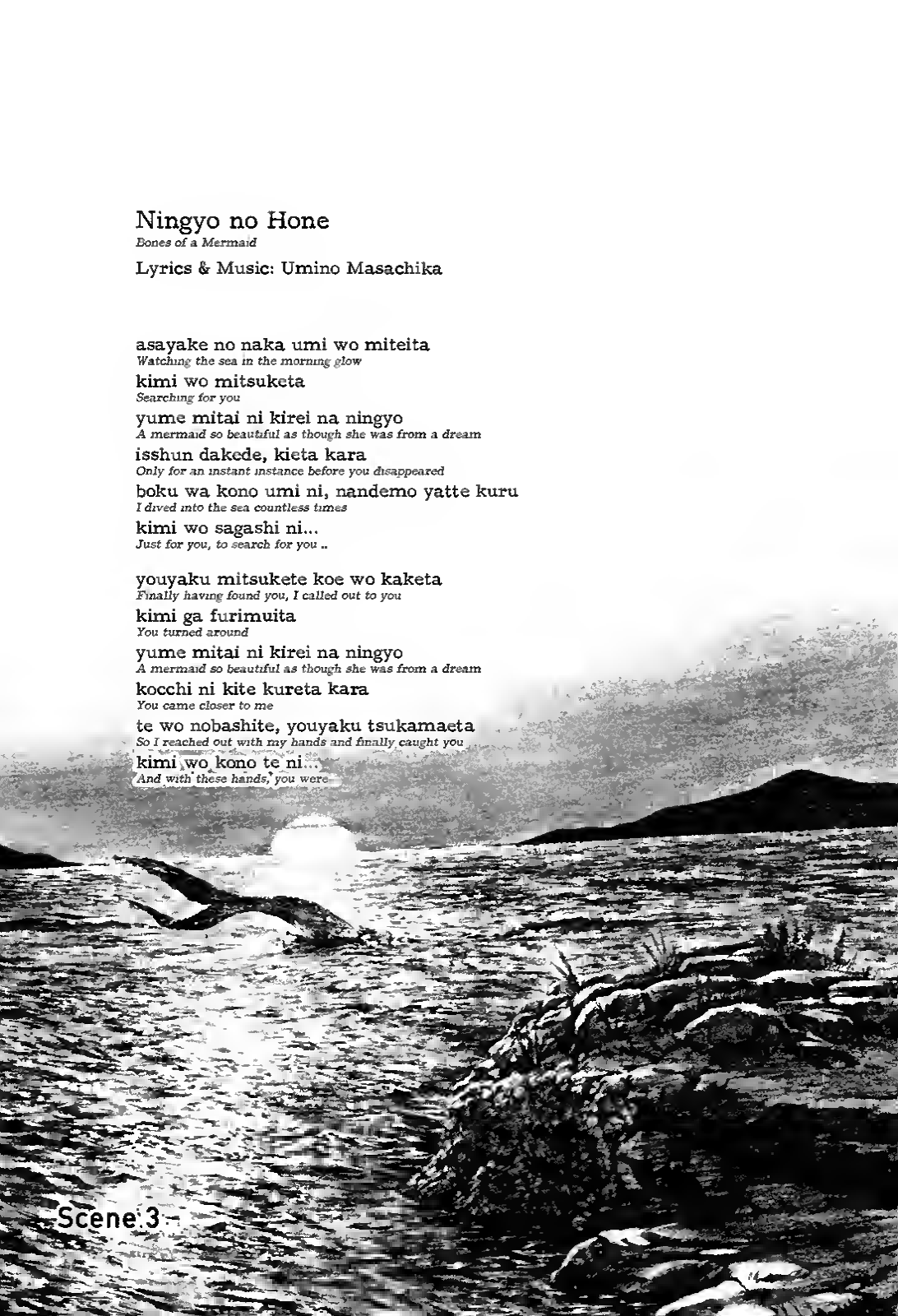
Ningyo no Hone

Bones of a Mermaid

Lyrics & Music: Umino Masachika

asayake no naka umi wo miteita
Watching the sea in the morning glow
kimi wo mitsuketa
Searching for you
yume mitai ni kirei na ningyo
A mermaid so beautiful as though she was from a dream
isshun dakede, kieta kara
Only for an instant instance before you disappeared
boku wa kono umi ni, nandemo yatte kuru
I dived into the sea countless times
kimi wo sagashi ni...
Just for you, to search for you ..

youyaku mitsukete koe wo kaketa
Finally having found you, I called out to you
kimi ga furimuita
You turned around
yume mitai ni kirei na ningyo
A mermaid so beautiful as though she was from a dream
kocchi ni kite kureta kara
You came closer to me
te wo nobashite, youyaku tsukamaeta
So I reached out with my hands and finally caught you
kimi wo kono te ni...
And with these hands, you were

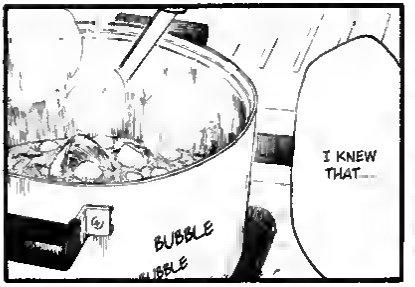


Scene 3

Scene.3

LOVELESS

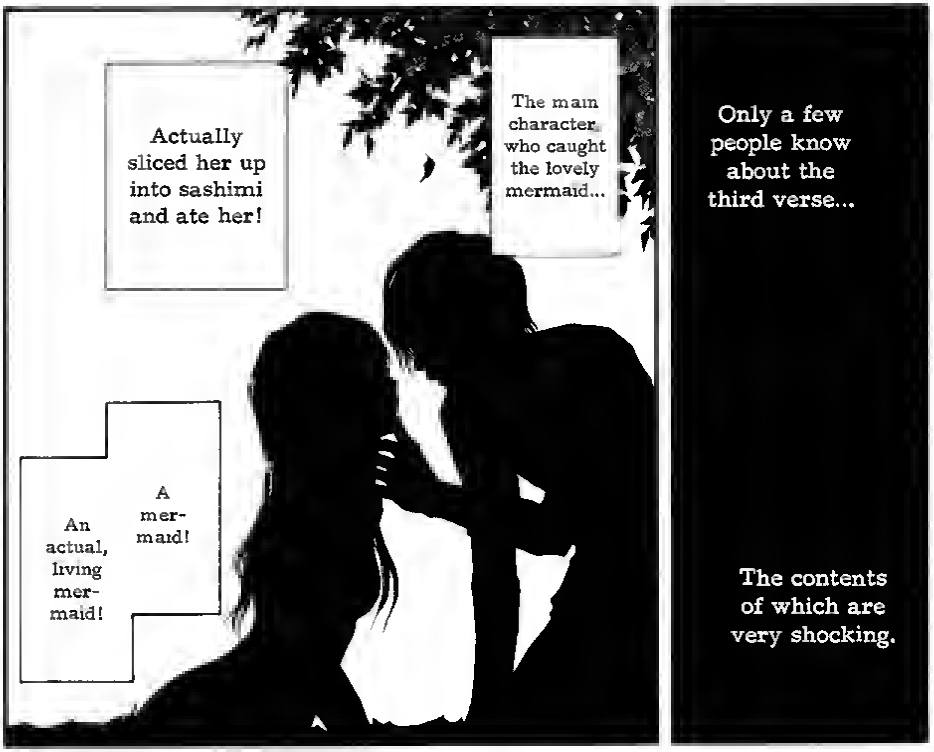
Note: She's singing "Ningyo no Hone"

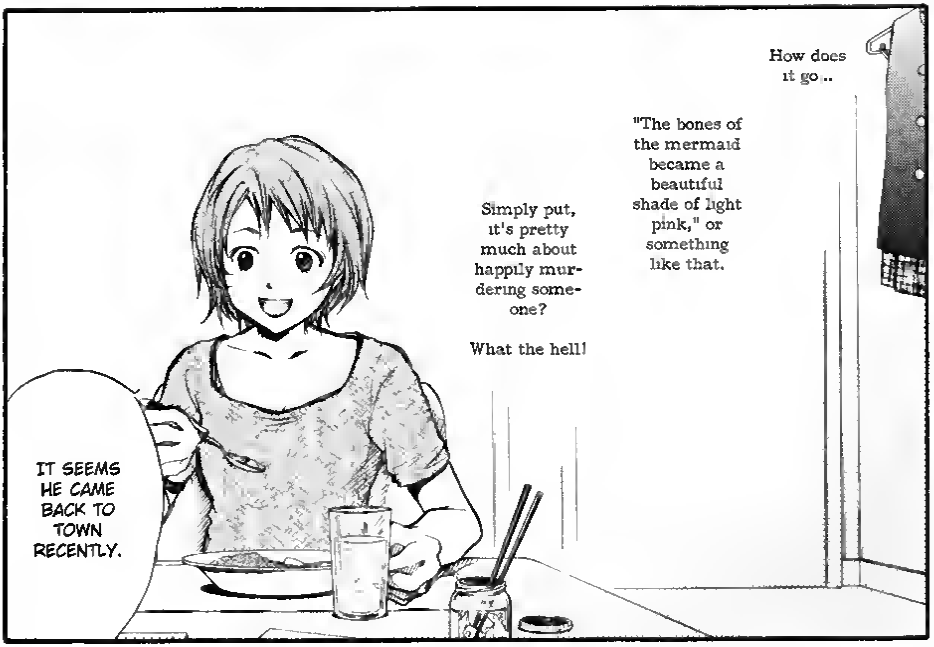


THAT— THERE'S NO WAY!
Also, he could very well be Umino Mokuzu's father
Although she doesn't seem too keen on admitting that, herself

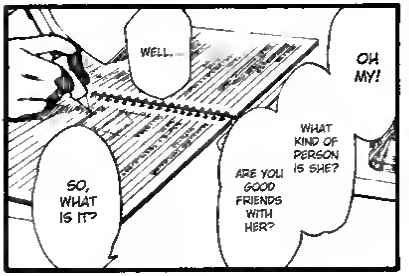
WHAA— WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
SCARING PEOPLE THE MOMENT YOU COME HOME!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF UMINO MASACHIKA?
THIS IS HIS HOMETOWN!
Puma

KIMI WOOO...
MITSUUU-KETAAAAA.
DO YOU KNOW THE THIRD VERSE TO THIS SONG?
This song appears very elegant, and seems romantic, until the third verse.
Everyone seems to be enchanted by the romantic Umino Masachika.
OH!
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
THE THIRD VERSE?
HOW DOES IT GO?
FORGET IT, IF YOU DON'T...


Actually sliced her up into sashimi and ate her!
The main character who caught the lovely mermaid...
An actual, living mermaid!
A mermaid!
Only a few people know about the third verse...
The contents of which are very shocking.

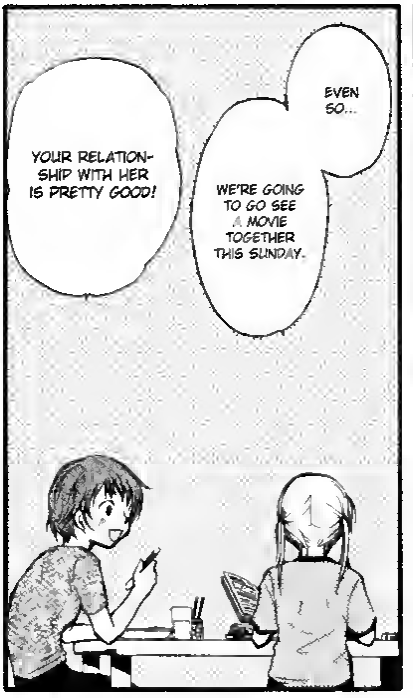

How does it go..
"The bones of the mermaid became a beautiful shade of light pink," or something like that.
Simply put, it's pretty much about happily murdering someone?
What the hell!
IT SEEMS HE CAME BACK TO TOWN RECENTLY.

...SHE'S IN MY CLASS.
理科

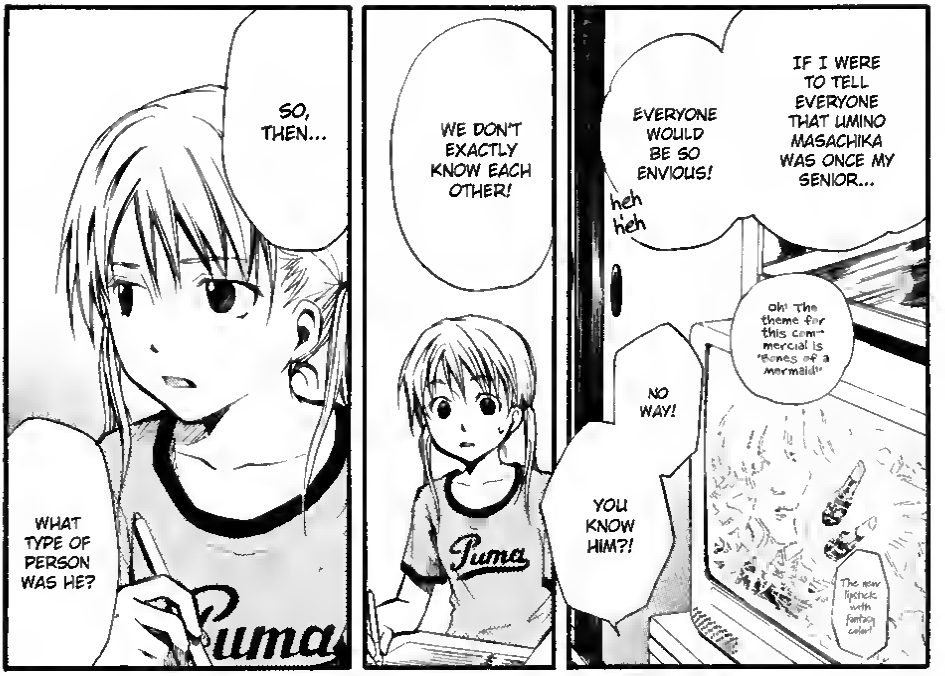

OH MY!
WELL...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?
ARE YOU GOOD FRIENDS WITH HER?
SO, WHAT IS IT?

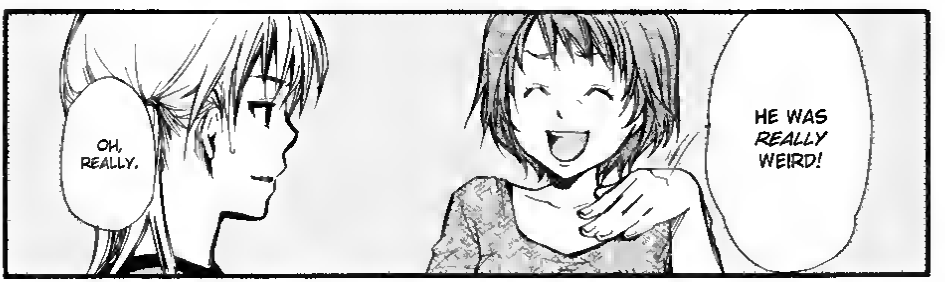
I HEARD THAT HE WAS INVITED BACK TO WORK AS A COMPOSER OF SOME SORT.
APPARENTLY, HE ALSO HAS A DAUGHTER.
A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, JUST LIKE HER MOTHER.

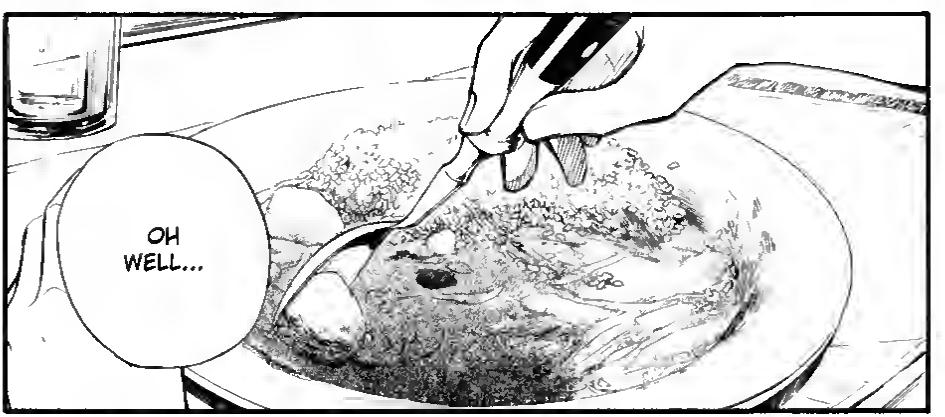
OH NO! PLEASE DON'T SPREAD THAT AROUND AT YOUR WORK!
WHY NOT? YOU'RE SO STINGY!


YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HER IS PRETTY GOOD!
EVEN SO...
WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE A MOVIE TOGETHER THIS SUNDAY.

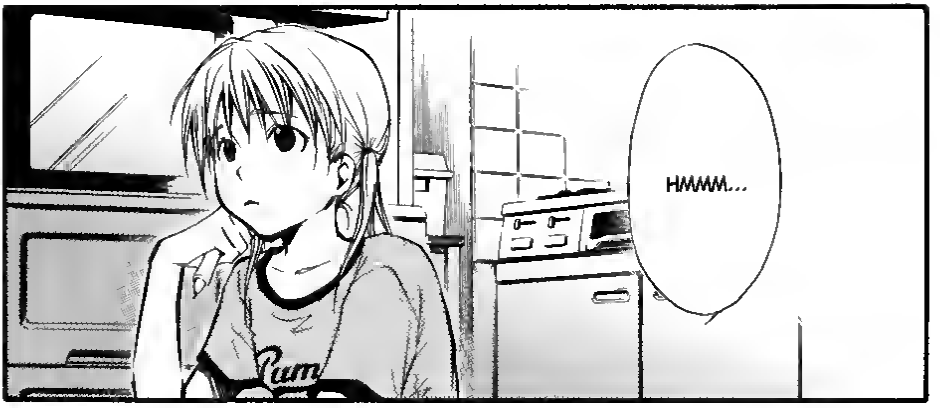
SHE'S REALLY WEIRD.
Aahh, thinking about it makes me depressed.


SO, THEN...
WHAT TYPE OF PERSON WAS HE?
WE DON'T EXACTLY KNOW EACH OTHER!
YOU KNOW HIM?!
NO WAY!
EVERYONE WOULD BE SO ENVIOUS!
heh heh
IF I WERE TO TELL EVERYONE THAT UMINO MASACHIKA WAS ONCE MY SENIOR...
oh! The theme for this commercial is "Genes of a mermaid!"
The new lipstick with fantasy color!


OH, REALLY.
HE WAS *REALLY* WEIRD!


OH WELL...

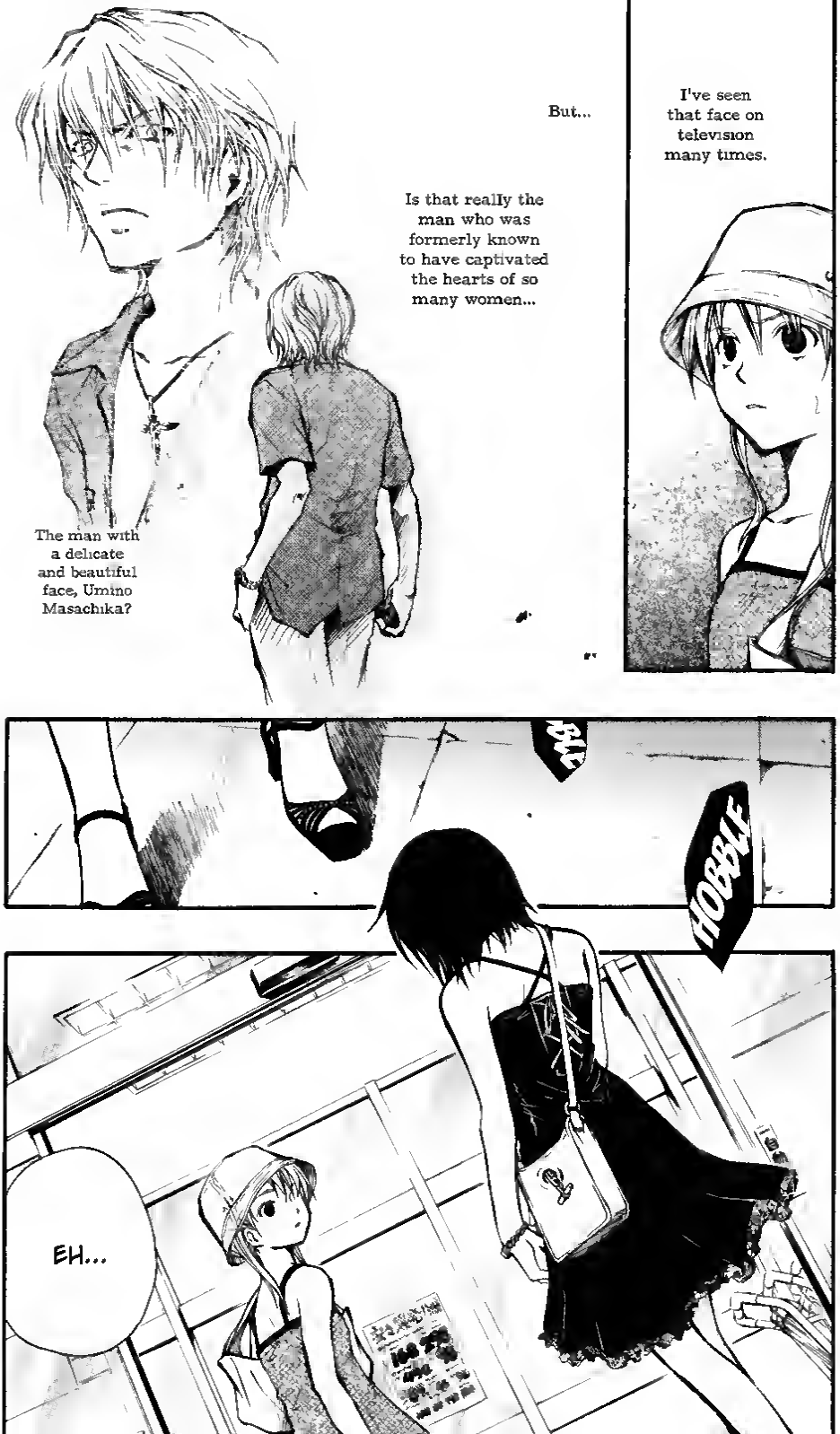
HE REALLY WAS WEIRD...
HOW DO YOU PUT IT... HE'S ECCENTRIC?
HE WAS A NEUROTIC AND RESTLESS PERSON ..
IT COULD GET QUITE TROUBLE-SOME FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM
IT'S BETTER TO LOOK AT PEOPLE LIKE HIM WITH INTEREST, BUT FROM A DISTANCE.

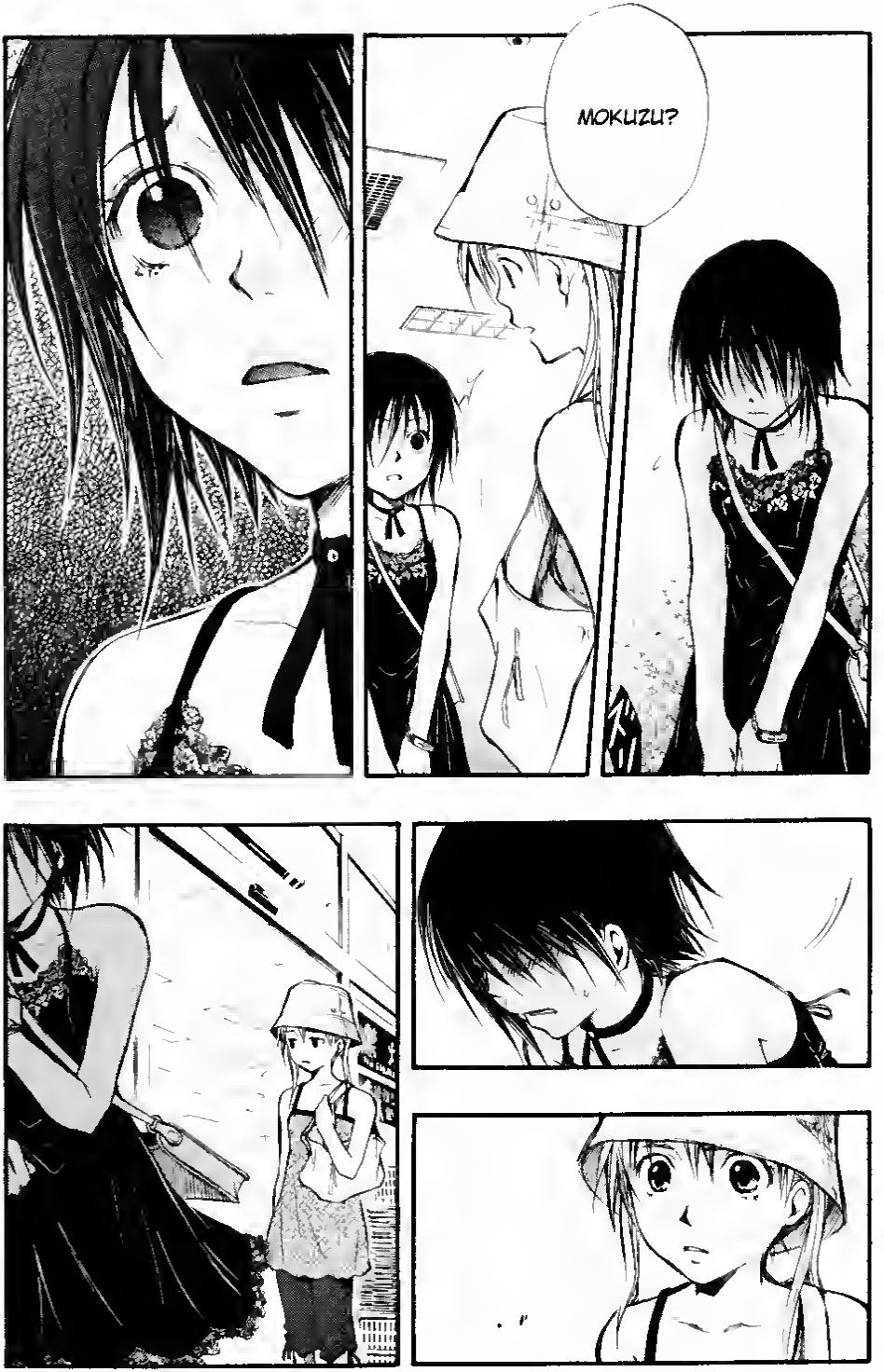

HMMM...

SO HOT...
Rice is too heavy. I'll leave it, for now
大売出し
eggs
cucumber
tomato
ham
milk
rice
bread
I'LL BUY MORE TOMATOES, IF THEY'RE CHEAP, AND...
EGGS, CUCUMBERS...

SMASH!
THIS USELESS JUNK WON'T MOVE!
SALE
CRASH!
S-SIR?!
THIS CART WOULDN'T MOVE!!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, THESE THINGS ARE A LITTLE OLD...
I'M NEVER RETURNING TO A CRAPPY STORE LIKE THIS AGAIN!
BANG!

NO WAY...
THIS SCARY PERSON...
I feel like I've seen him somewhere, before...
WHA-
UMINO MASACHIKA!
No way...


The man with a delicate and beautiful face, Umino Masachika?
Is that really the man who was formerly known to have captivated the hearts of so many women...
But...
I've seen that face on television many times.
HOBBLE
EH...

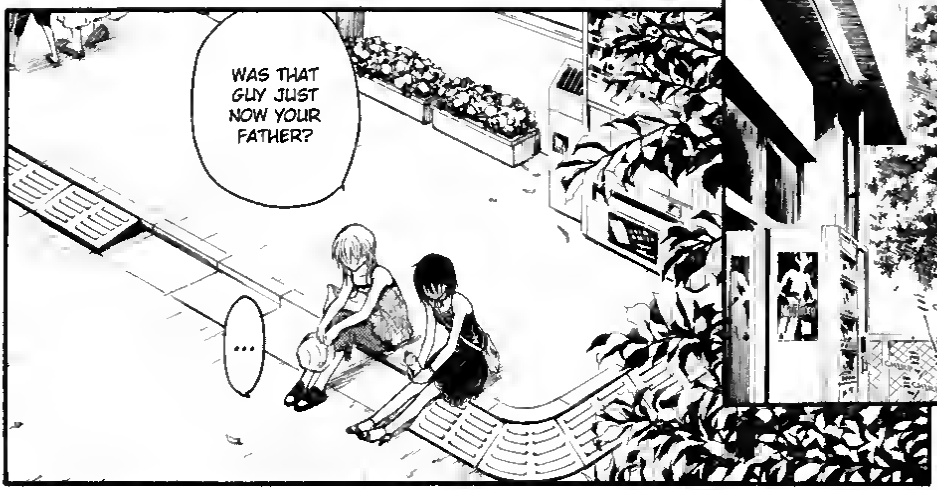

MOKUZU?

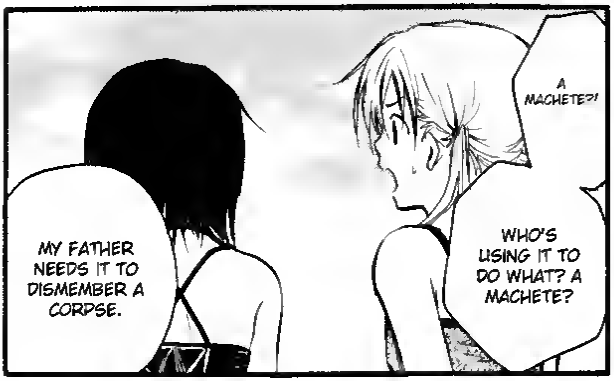
It was there...
That I saw for the first time, what Mokuzu's everyday life was like.
P
YOU'RE WALKING HOME. I'M LEAVING NOW!
SLAM
VROOM

VVROOM
P
THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
D
UUU
HIC-
KA THUNK
...SIGH.
U-
WAAAH!!
AAAA...

OW!
WHOMP
WAAH!
AA-
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP

GO TO HELL.
SHUT UP.
I'M NOT GOING TO HELL.
AREN'T WE ALREADY GOING TO THE MOVIES TOMORROW?
THEN...
BE MY FRIEND!
HOW ABOUT WE DITCH PORCUPINE-HEAD, AND WATCH THE MOVIE BY OURSELVES.
NO WAY!
that's just sad.
AND HIS NAME IS KANAJIMA-KUN.
TCH
CHIIIRP
CHIRP


WAS THAT GUY JUST NOW YOUR FATHER?
...

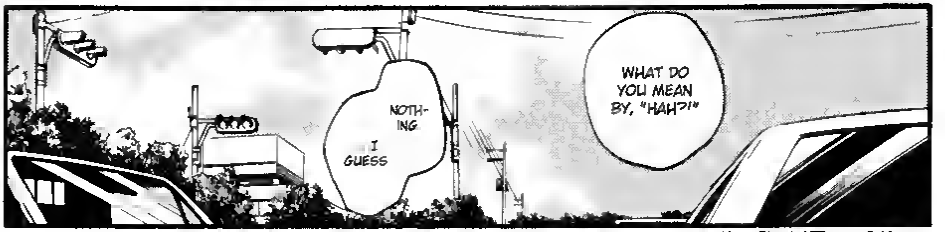

A MACHETE?!
WHO'S USING IT TO DO WHAT? A MACHETE?
MY FATHER NEEDS IT TO DISMEMBER A CORPSE.

WHAT?
...OH?!

SO THAT MAN WAS YOUR FATHER, AFTER ALL!
...

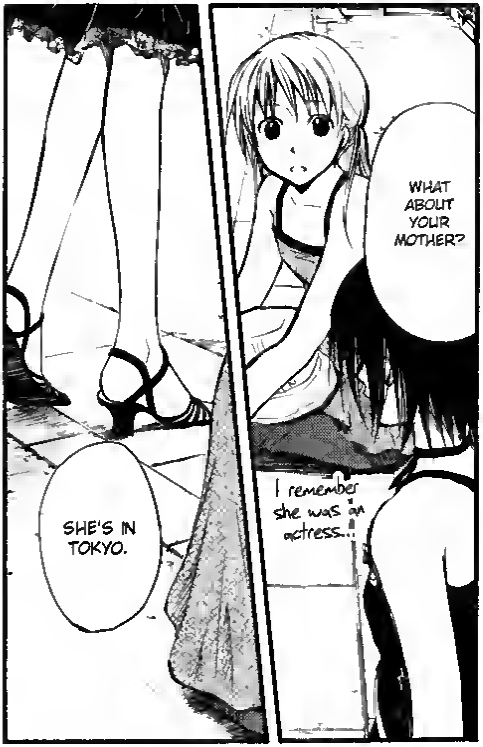
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO BUY?
A MACHETE.
IT'S URGENT.

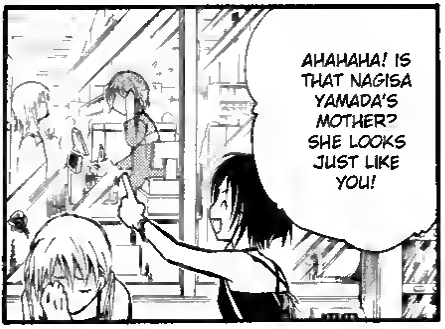
I LOVE MY FATHER THE MOST, YOU KNOW.
HAH!
LIMINO MASACHIKA.
YEAH.


NOTH-ING I GUESS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY, "HAH?!"

LOVE IS SO DEPRESSING.

Who is that beautiful looking girl?!
Wait, Nagisa!
MOM!!
EXCUSE ME, CASHIER?
Oh my, sorry!
KNOCK
KNOCK


WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?
I remember she was an actress...
SHE'S IN TOKYO.


AHAHAHA! IS THAT NAGISA YAMADA'S MOTHER? SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!

SHE'S SUCH AN ORDINARY MOTHER.

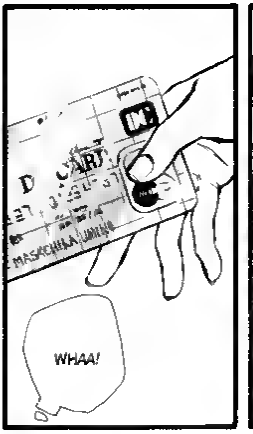
SHE'S A HORRIBLE WOMAN.
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE SHE'S LOSING POPULARITY...
SHE'S NO LONGER YOUNG AND SHE'S STILL WORKING TO DEATH ON SOME LOW-BUDGET MOVIE.
WITH ALL THE WRINKLES ON HER FACE, SHE LOOKS LIKE A HAS-BEEN THAT'S ABOUT TO CRACK.
SHE ABANDONED HER HUSBAND...
EVEN CALLED HIM INSANE
...
THAT'S WHY I FOUGHT WITH HER OVER DAD.
AND I WON.

THAT'S WHY I'M BY MY FATHER'S SIDE...
AND I CAN HAVE NO ONE BUT HIM.
What Mokuzu's been saying...
Is still as unfathomable as always...
77
And yet...

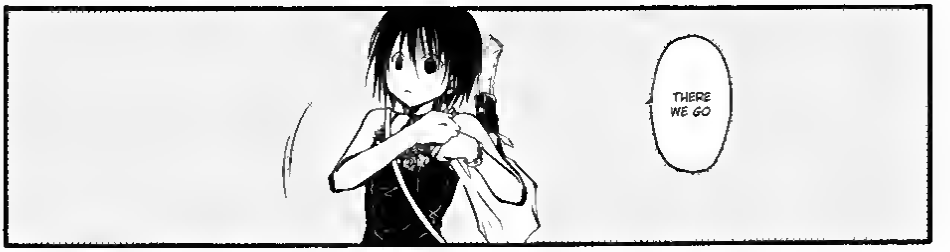
I don't know why, but for just a moment...
I felt the distance between Mokuzu and I had grown closer.
MMM.
GO TO HELL.
The supermarket doesn't sell machetes. You'll have to get it from a farm supply or hardware store.
Eh, where's that?

ホーム
センター
コープ
焼津
店内入口

SHE BOUGHT THE BIGGEST ONE...
AND PAID WITH A CREDIT CARD, TOO...
UWAA!


WHAA!

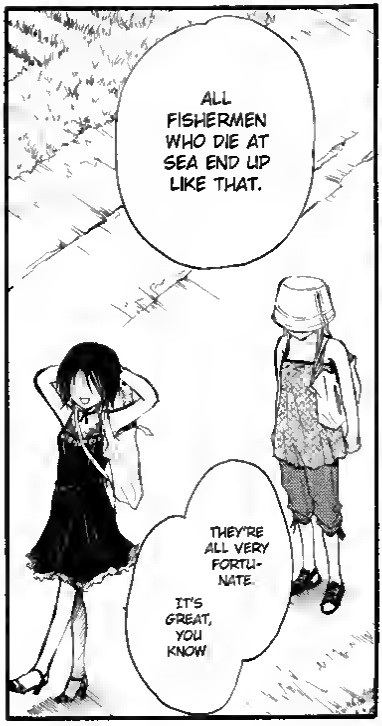
AH-

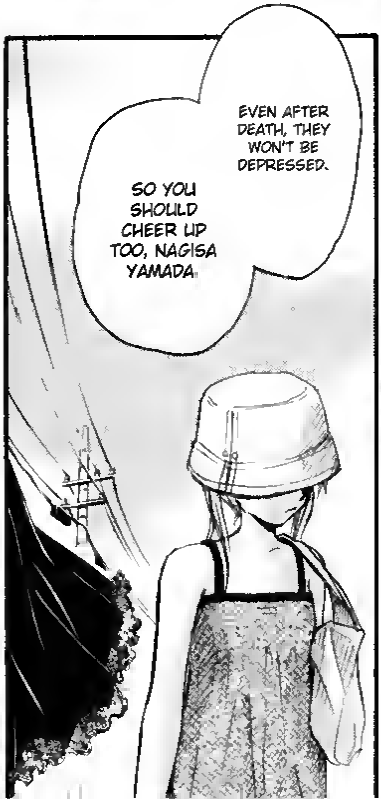

THERE WE GO

HEY, HEY.
WHAT IS IT?

WHERE'S NAGISA YAMADA'S FATHER?
Is he as interesting as your mom?
UM...
...HE PASSED AWAY.
TEN YEARS AGO.
THEN MY BROTHER USED UP ALL THE INSURANCE MONEY. SO NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T INTEND TO KEEP STUDYING AFTER I GRADUATE. I WANT TO WORK.

THE STORM ALSO TOOK PLACE TEN YEARS AGO.
SO BASICALLY...
MY DAD WAS A FISHERMAN.
NEWS ABOUT THE TYPHOON WASN'T REPORTED IN THE WEATHER FORECAST SO HIS BOAT CAPSIZED IN IT.
AND THEN...
WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
EIJI YAMADA.
WHY?
AH...
I KNOW HIM.


ALL FISHERMEN WHO DIE AT SEA END UP LIKE THAT.
THEY'RE ALL VERY FORTU-NATE.
IT'S GREAT, YOU KNOW.


EVEN AFTER DEATH, THEY WON'T BE DEPRESSED.
SO YOU SHOULD CHEER UP TOO, NAGISA YAMADA.

I MET HIM IN THE OCEAN ONCE! HE LOOKED VERY HAPPY.
BEING SURROUNDED BY GOLD AND JEWELRY, AND SERVED WINE BY BEAUTIFUL MERMAIDS AND ALL...

BECAUSE MERMAIDS ARE ALL GENTLE CREATURES, IT'S VERY ENJOYABLE TO BE UNDER THE SEA
AND ALSO...
...SHUT UP
SHUT UP!!

Her words went on like tongue-twisters, as she continued talking as thought her dear life depended on it.

At that time, it was as though Mokuzu didn't hear the restraint in my voice, as she ignored me.

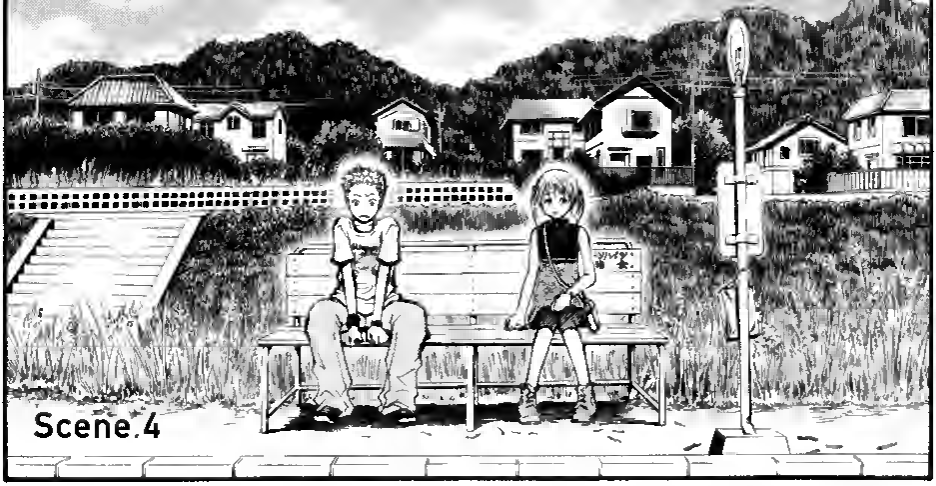
THANKS FOR THE MACHETE...
NAGISA YAMADA!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
CLACK

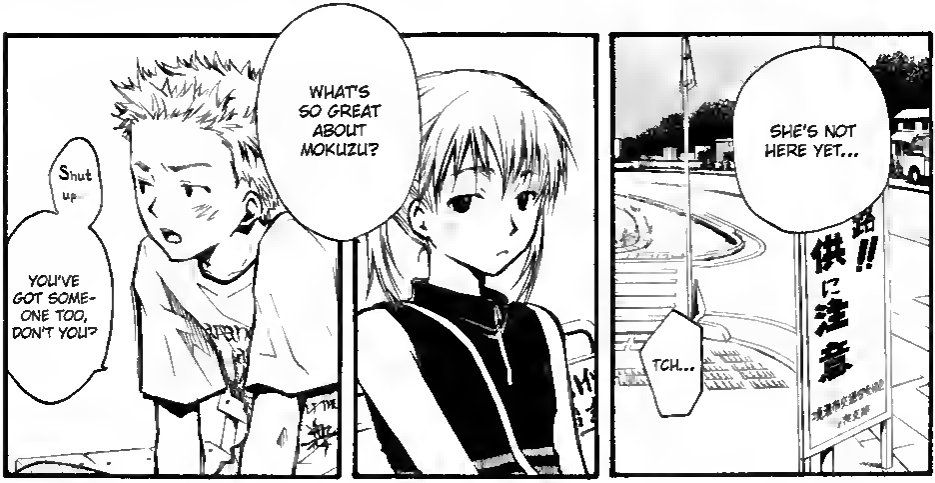
With the air of an urbanite, Mokuzu walked along the mismatched countryside path.
Staggering and uneasy, she still swung her arms proudly as she walked.
SHE REALLY IS WEIRD.
On her small back...
She carried a huge machete.

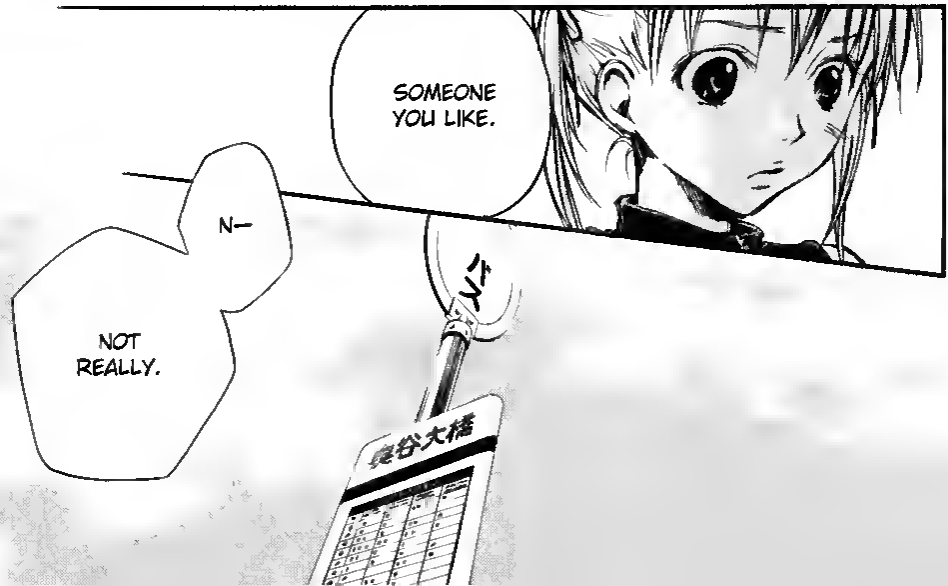
scene 4: Happy Like a Honeybee

Translation shiroyuki
Proofread Babelglyph
Edit monkey
Quality Check. kate

Tranquil Spring
www.tranquilspring.com

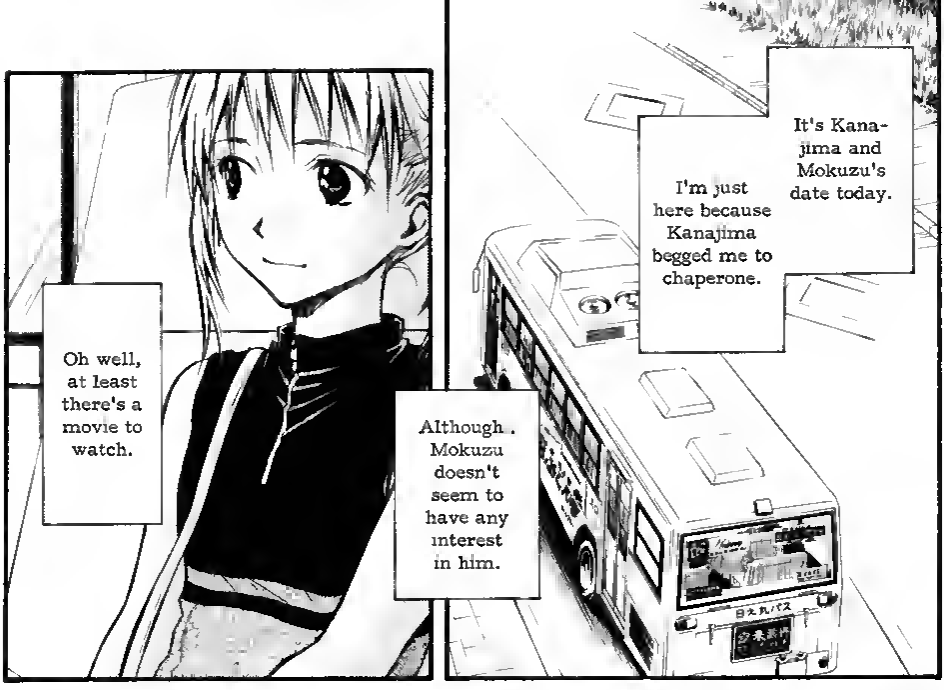

Scene.4

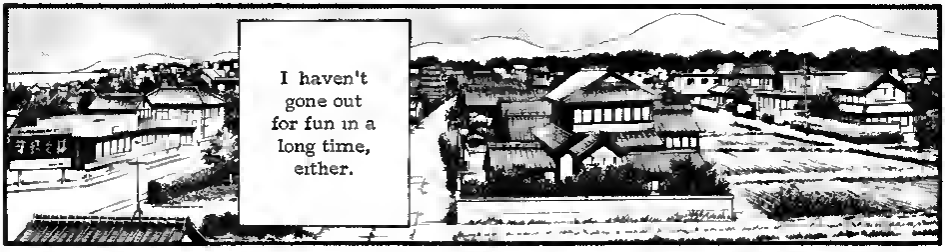

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT MOKUZU?
Shut up
YOU'VE GOT SOME-ONE TOO, DON'T YOU?
SHE'S NOT HERE YET...
TCH...
注意
に
供!!

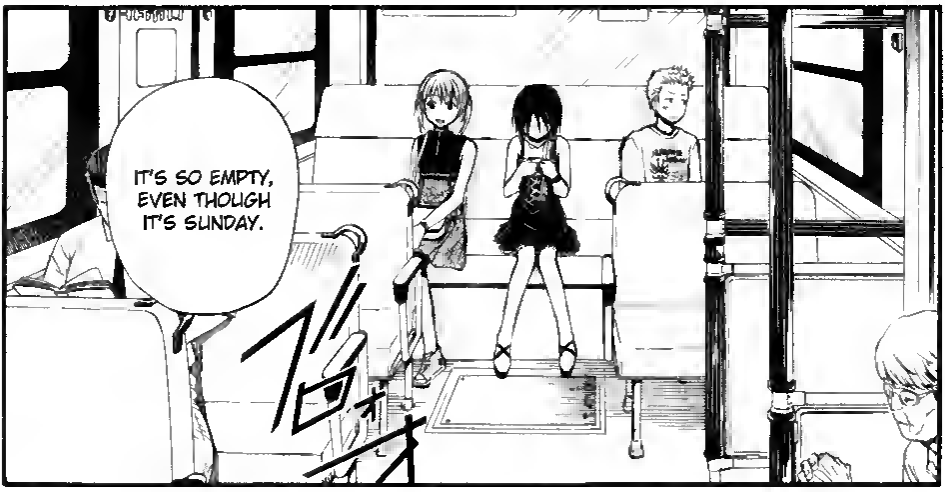

SOMEONE YOU LIKE.
N—
NOT REALLY.
ﾐﾝﾐﾝ
穂谷大橋

Scene.4 Happy Like a Honeybee

NAGISA YAMADA CAME!
YEAH, SURE—
HMM? OH, YOU'RE SO CUTE TODAY!
W-WHAT?
YOU'RE TOO SLOW! YOU'RE 20 MINUTES LATE!
LUMIN—

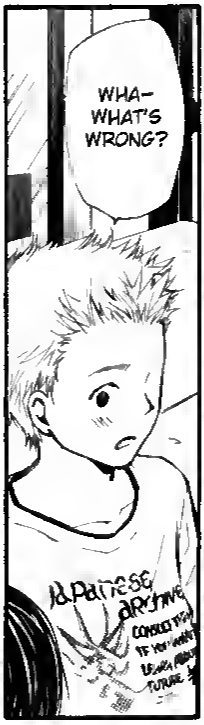

It's Kanajima and Mokuzu's date today.
I'm just here because Kanajima begged me to chaperone.
Although, Mokuzu doesn't seem to have any interest in him.
Oh well, at least there's a movie to watch.


I haven't gone out for fun in a long time, either.

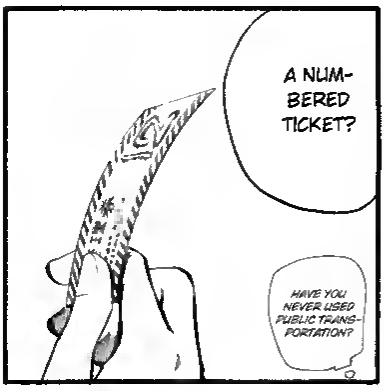

IT'S SO EMPTY, EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUNDAY.

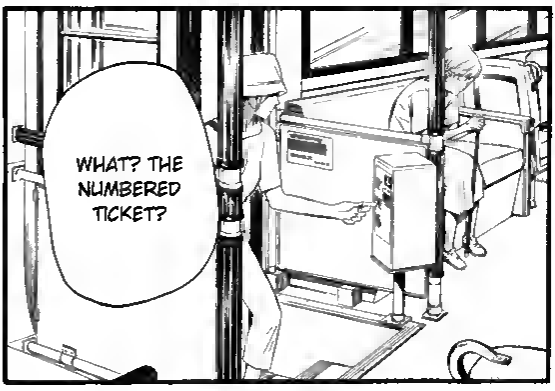
Wooow, you're way too nervous..
TCH...

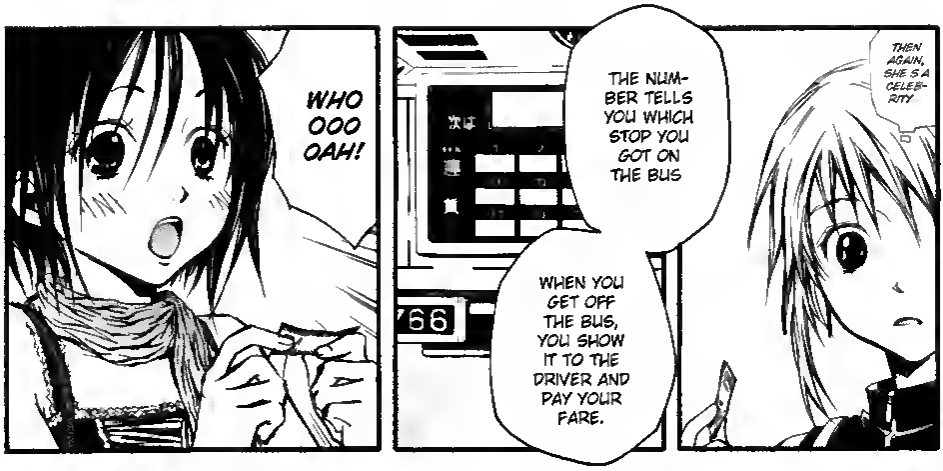
NAGISA YAMADA, WHAT IS THIS?
OH...
Hey, hey.. IS KANAJIMA INVISIBLE?


WHA- WHAT'S WRONG?

HMMM?

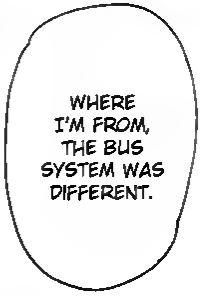

A NUMBERED TICKET?
HAVE YOU NEVER USED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?

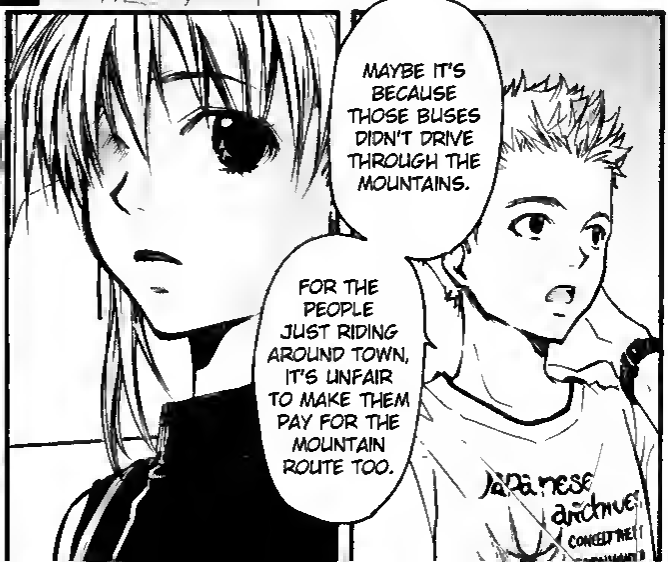

WHAT? THE NUMBERED TICKET?

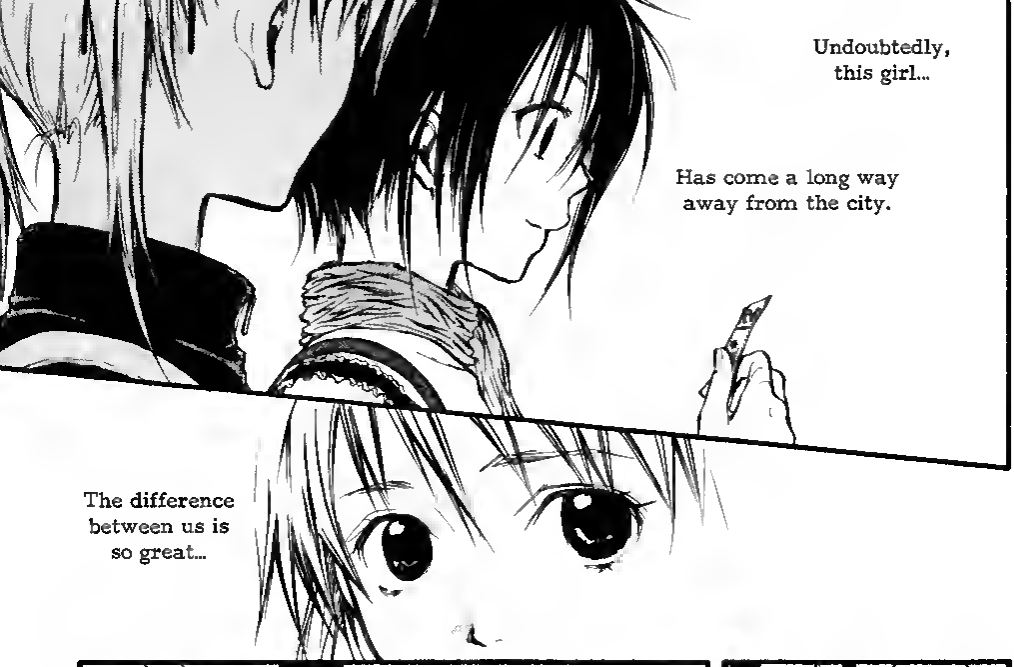

WHO OOO OAH!
66
THE NUMBER TELLS YOU WHICH STOP YOU GOT ON THE BUS
WHEN YOU GET OFF THE BUS, YOU SHOW IT TO THE DRIVER AND PAY YOUR FARE.
THEN AGAIN, SHE'S A CELEBRITY

The fare is the same no matter where you get off, so you pay when you board instead of when you leave.

According to Mokuzu, for the Sea of Japan's ocean-floor "Sea Roar" bus (probably really the Tokyo bus line)...




MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THOSE BUSES DIDN'T DRIVE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.
FOR THE PEOPLE JUST RIDING AROUND TOWN, IT'S UNFAIR TO MAKE THEM PAY FOR THE MOUNTAIN ROUTE TOO.
Japanese architec
CONCEIT ME!!


Undoubtedly, this girl...
Has come a long way away from the city.
The difference between us is so great...

WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, REALLY...
JUST WONDERING IF ALL CITY KIDS ARE WEIRDOS.
HA HA HA
WHAT'S THAT?

In the end, the bus ride took just 15 minutes.
We finally got to where we were going - the shopping district!
At that moment...
チャリンチャリン
境
港

WHAT TIME DOES THE MOVIE START?
UHUH
カーン
YOU TWO!
YOU'RE HER FRIENDS! HELP HER OUT, HERE!!
Japanese Archives
CONSULT THE PAST IF YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE FUTURE
?!

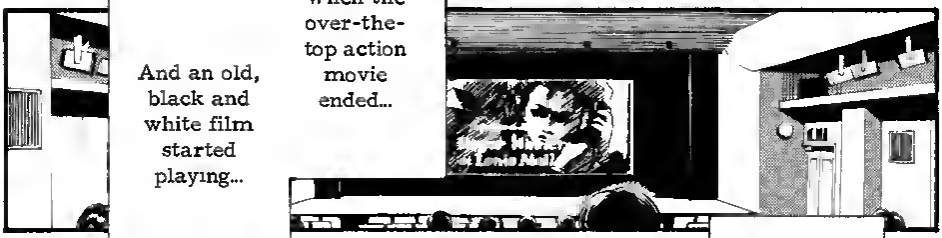
ゴオオ
HUH?
WAIT...
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUNGSTERS THESE DAYS?!
WH—
HELP WITH WHAT?!
ゴロォォ
...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT OLD GUY?

YOUNG-STERS!
REALLY!
THAT WAS HILARIOUS!
The bus driver's sudden outburst didn't affect Mokuzu.
It all seemed perfectly normal to her.
Japanese archive
CONSULT THE PAST IF YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE FUTURE
HUH?
No matter how much I thought about it, she was really just incomprehensible.

*Fishing Fool s Diary A manga about fishing made nta both an anime ser es and movie http://www.tsuribaka.movie.jp/index.html

SO, UMM...
THIS THEATER ALWAYS SEEMS TO PICK THE MOVIES IT PLAYS RANDOMLY.
BEFORE THIS, IT WAS ACTUALLY HARRY POTTER AND TSURIBAKA NISSHI*.

MAN, THIS KID..
SERI-OUSLY


When the over-the-top action movie ended...
And an old, black and white film started playing...

Somehow or another, even Nakajima started to drift off to sleep.
I couldn't have cared less though; personally, I was really enjoying the movie.

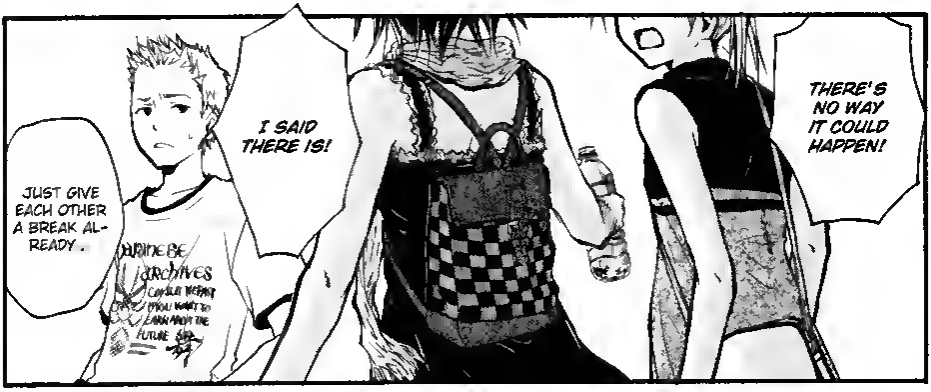
HEY, NAGISA YAMADA...
THAT WOMAN IS PRETTY.
THAT'S JEANNE MOREAU.
MM...
WHY DOES SHE HAVE SUCH A BOTHERED EXPRESSION?
WELL, SHE...
WHO?
SHE WAS AN ACTRESS FROM FRANCE. MY BROTHER KNOWS ALL ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
HE-HEH...
WHA-AAT! FOR REAL?!
SHHHH!

WHAT? HOW STUPID!
IN MY OPINION, IT'S VERY SIMPLE.
HOW SO?
IS HE TRAPPED IN THE ELEVATOR? HOW DID HE ESCAPE?
HE CAN'T ESCAPE!
Uhh...
BECAUSE I'M A MERMAID!
WE CAN ESCAPE BY TURING INTO FOAM AND ESCAPING THROUGH THE GAPS.
WE CAN ALSO DISAPPEAR FROM SECRET ROOMS, FOOL THE COPS, AND -- FREEDOM!
SO IT'S EASY, ISN'T IT?
...YOU'RE AT IT AGAIN.
BECAUSE MERMAIDS CAN TURN INTO FOAM! WE CAN BECOME REALLY SMALL...
RIGHT?

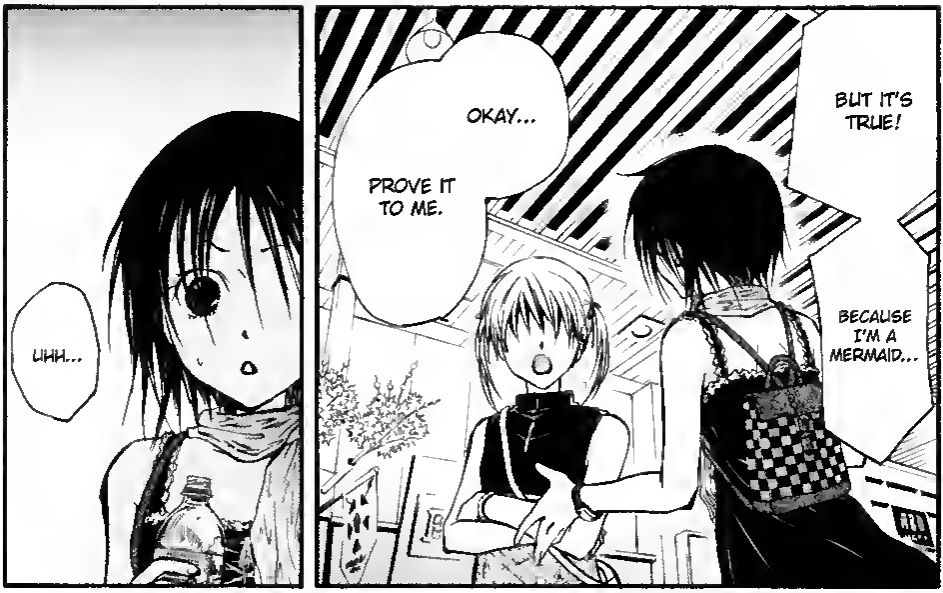
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO DISAPPEAR FROM A ROOM.
THAT'S WHAT MY BROTHER SAID.
Furthermore, I don't want to hear any more of your lies.
JUST SHUT UP FOR NOW!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
HEY...
YOU'RE ANNOYING.

What's with this persistence...

IT'S POS-
SIBLE TO
DISAPPEAR!
IMPOS-
SIBLE!


JUST GIVE
EACH OTHER
A BREAK AL-
READY.
I SAID
THERE IS!
THERE'S
NO WAY
IT COULD
HAPPEN!

YOU'RE
STARTING
TO GET IR-
RITIATING,
MOKUZU!
BECAUSE
I CAN TURN
INTO FOAM!
I CAN
DO IT!



It would make me feel like an idiot to allow such sweets to irritate me.

That's why I was speaking so harshly.

What would Mokuzu do when pushed to her limits?
Back then, I felt just a little tempted to challenge her.
ALL RIGHT.
FOLLOW ME.
The situation took a surprising twist.

WHERE... IS THIS?
Under the scorching sun...
We followed her for a long time, taking the same route as before.
And finally we arrived...
Ah!

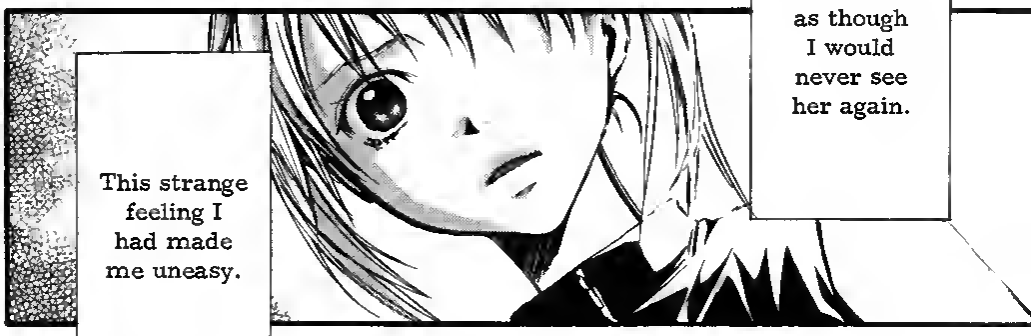
THAT HUGE THING OVER THERE IS... A DOG HOUSE?
SURE IS LUXURIOUS...
MY HOME.
ACK!
WHAT?! YOU MEAN, THIS IS WHERE MASACHIKA UMINO LIVES?!
NOW, THEN.
FROM MY HOUSE...
I'LL DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.

I'LL TURN INTO FOAM AND DISAP-PEAR.
ONE MINUTE AFTER I'VE ENTERED MY HOUSE...
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE BUS STOP WE CAME FROM IN THIRTY MINUTES
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE PROOF OF ME BEING A MERMAID.
UHH...
HUH?
WE'LL MEET THERE.

OKAY, I'M GOING TO DISAP-PEAR NOW.
...
ガサッ

ズリ
ズリ

I was clearly annoyed by Mokuzu's lies...
But watching that girl's back as she disappeared behind the door, I-


It was as though I would never see her again.
This strange feeling I had made me uneasy.

satou kashi no dangan wa uchinukenai
a lollipop or a bullet

scene 5: Knife Edge Caress

Translation shitoyuki
Proofread Rymmkon
Edit monkey
Quality Check. kate

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SO...
HOW ARE WE GOING TO CONFIRM THIS?
I'M GONNA DISAPPEAR NOW.
She had a smile that seemed to be saying goodbye to us.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A MINUTE
Y— YEAH
Mokuzu went through the door and disappeared.

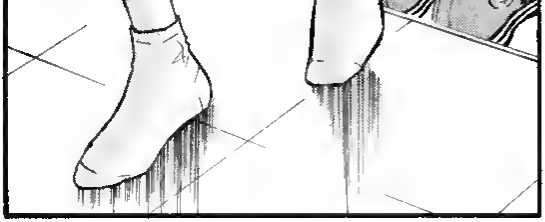
Scene.5

We've been pulled into the depths of Mokuzu's world.

Scene.5

Knife Edge Caress

HEY! EXCUSE ME!
MOKUZU?
UMINO MOKUZU-SAN?!
YOU'RE INSIDE, RIGHT?! COME OUT!
...
japanese archives
...
YOU CALL THIS DISAPPEARING?
THIS WOULDN'T EVEN FOOL A KID!
...HUH?
japanese archives



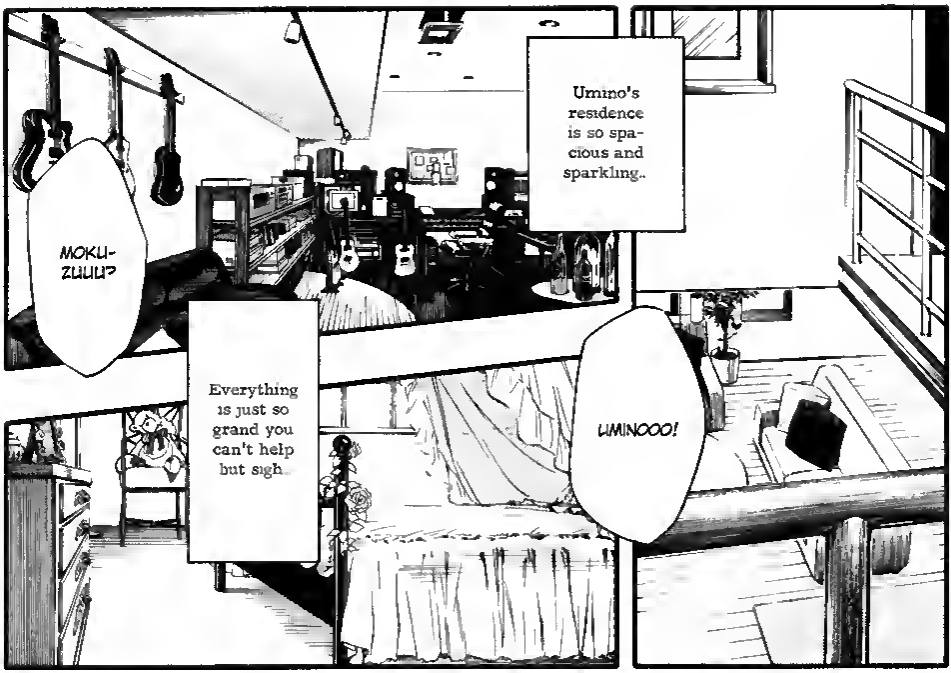
IS... IS THIS OKAY? ENTERING WITHOUT PERMIS-SION...
UMINO?!

THAT GIRL...
SHE CAME IN WITH HER SHOES ON, RIGHT?
I... DON'T KNOW.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WE'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE, RIGHT?

...
IT'S SO OBVIOUS YOU LIKE HER
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER HEAD! SHEESH!
THAT GIRL KEPT INSISTING SHE'S A MERMAID.

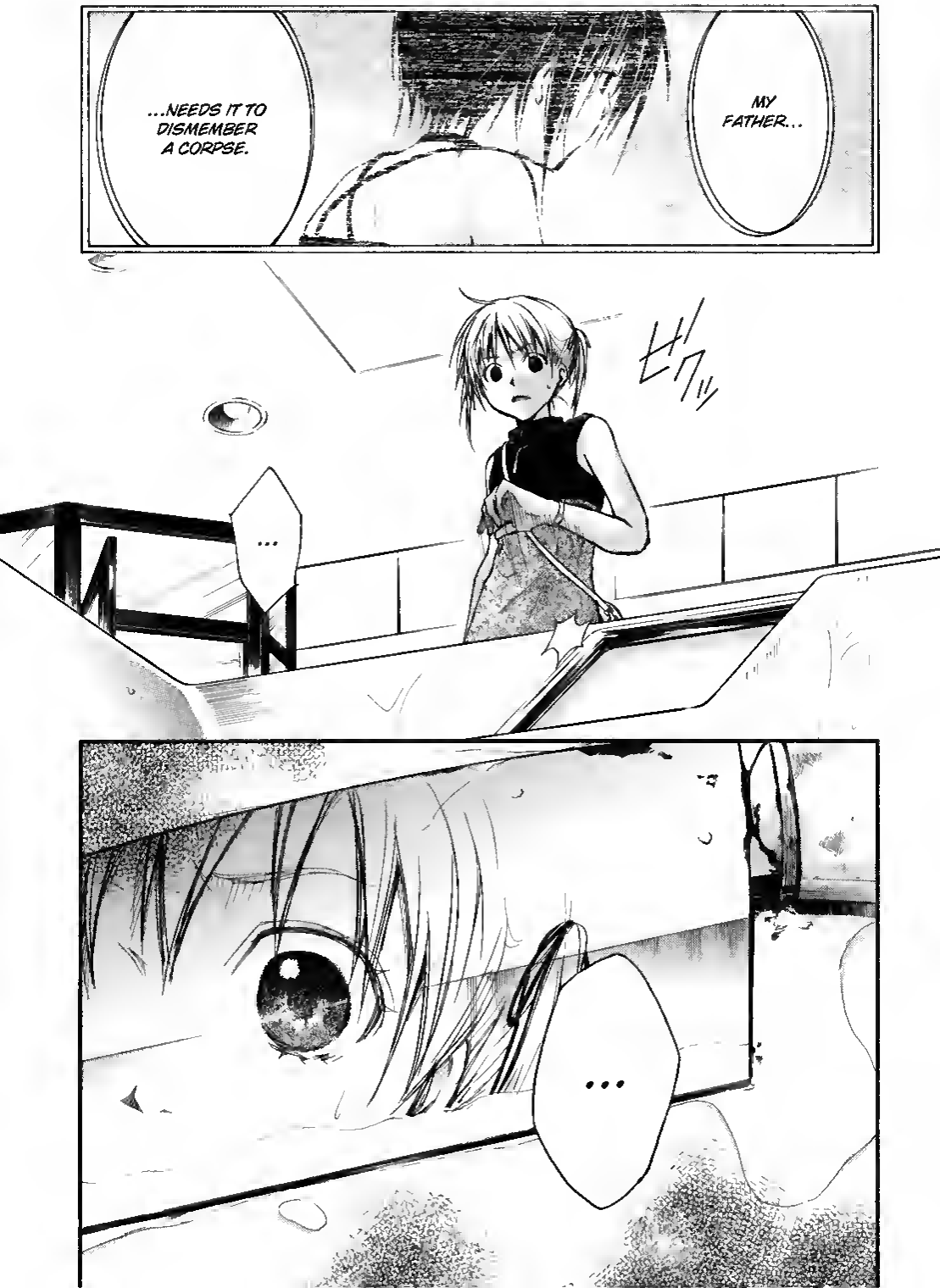
...I DON'T KNOW!
MAYBE I DON'T LIKE HER THAT MUCH AFTER ALL.
IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T. SHE PISSES ME OFF.
HER HOUSE SURE IS EXCESSIVELY BIG.
...NO POINT IN SAYING ANYTHING NOW.
EVERYONE SHUNS MOKUZU BECAUSE OF THESE KINDS OF THINGS, RIGHT?
カリカリ
CRAP...


Umino's residence is so spacious and sparkling..
MOKU-ZUUU?
Everything is just so grand you can't help but sigh..
UMINOOO!

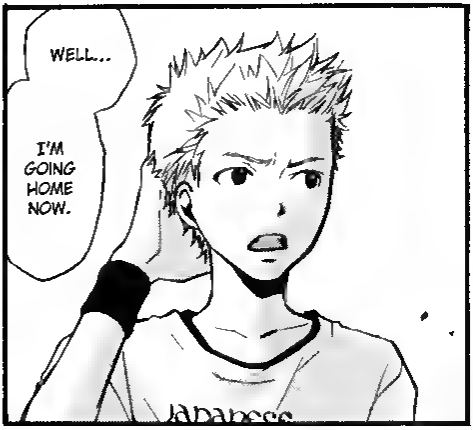
But there's no sign of Mokuzu anywhere..
SHE'S REALLY GONE?

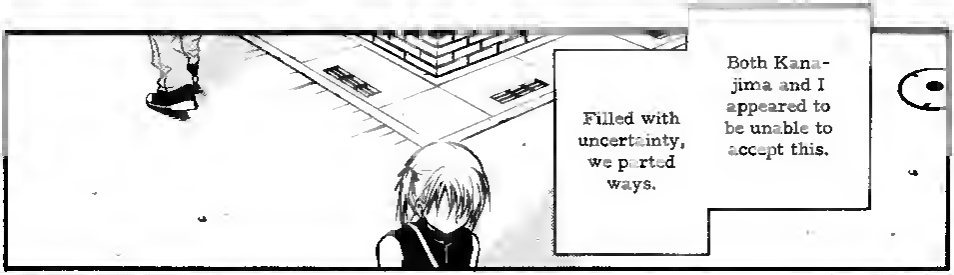
Unmistakable... It's the kind of rotting smell that comes from a marketplace.
What's that fishy smell?
But why
UHH...
MACHETE?!
M—

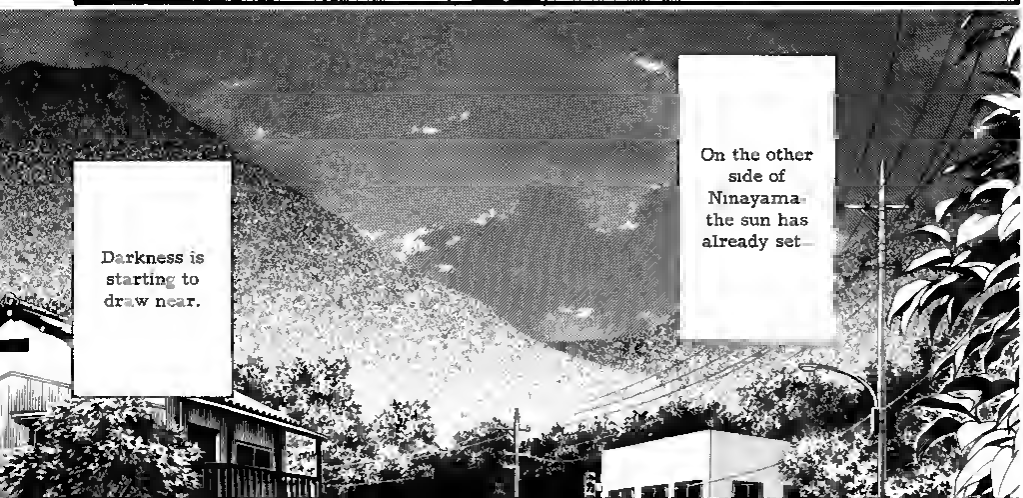
H— HOW WOULD I KNOW?!
GAH! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
A MACHETE IN THE BATHROOM?! THIS HOUSE IS WEIRD!
HOLD ON...
LET'S GO ALREADY, YAMADA.
O— OKAY.
WHAT IS IT SUP- POSED TO BE USED FOR?!
IT SEEMS TO BE COVERED IN SOME- THING...
IT'S REDDISH BROWN... LIKE BLOOD.
...


...NEEDS IT TO DISMEMBER A CORPSE.
MY FATHER...
...
...

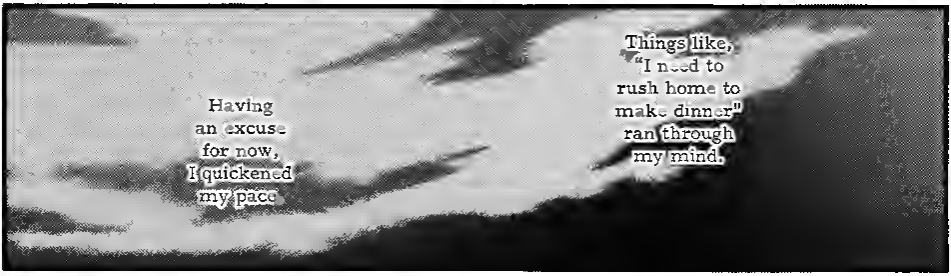
YEAH ..
ME TOO.


WELL...
I'M GOING HOME NOW.


Filled with uncertainty, we parted ways.
Both Kanajima and I appeared to be unable to accept this.


Darkness is starting to draw near.
On the other side of Ninayama- the sun has already set—

I...
NEED TO
GET HOME
SOON.


Having
an excuse
for now,
I quickened
my pace.
Things like,
"I need to
rush home to
make dinner"
ran through
my mind.

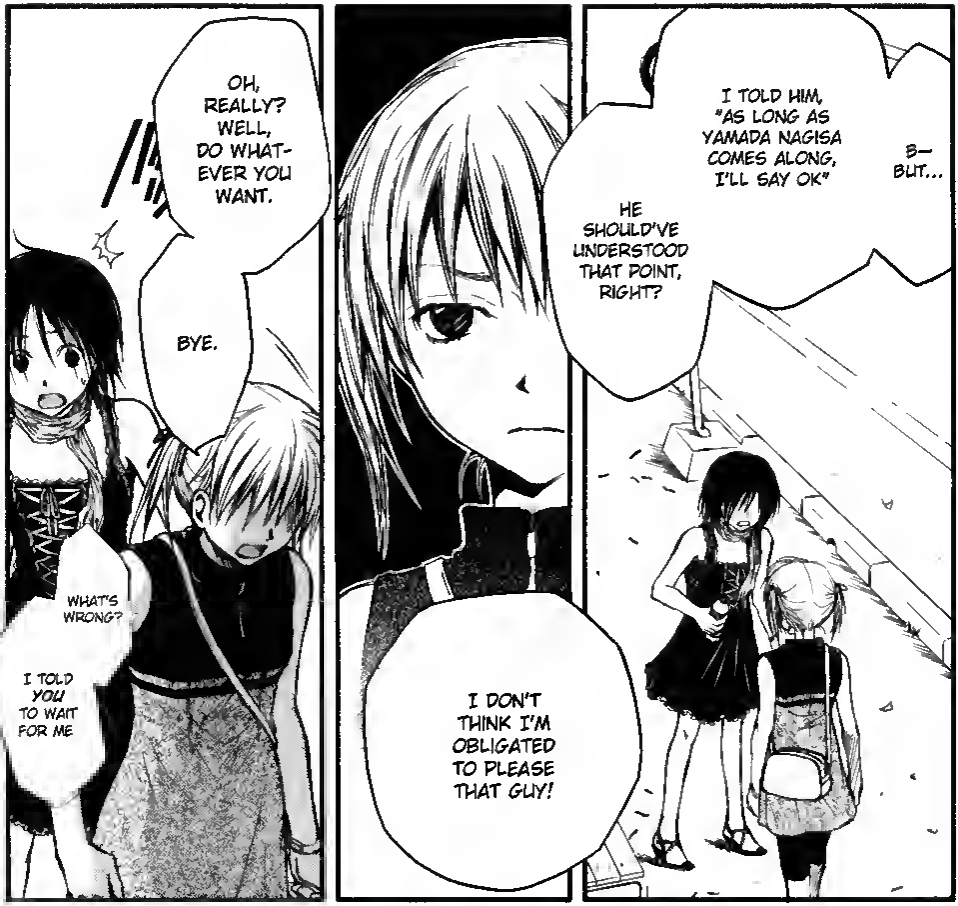
Mokuzu, who was
nowhere to be found.
The strange machete
found in the bathroom..
That spacious,
yet cold home..
All these things
made me feel uneasy.

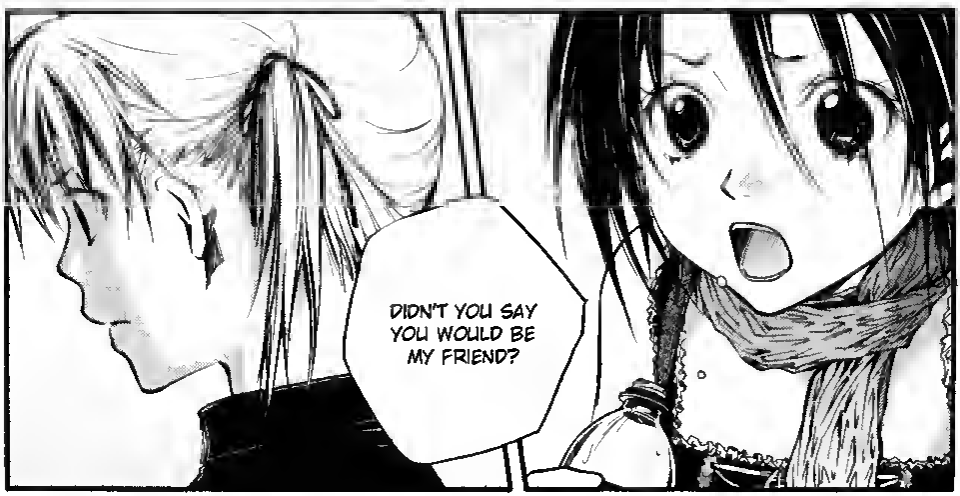
마크

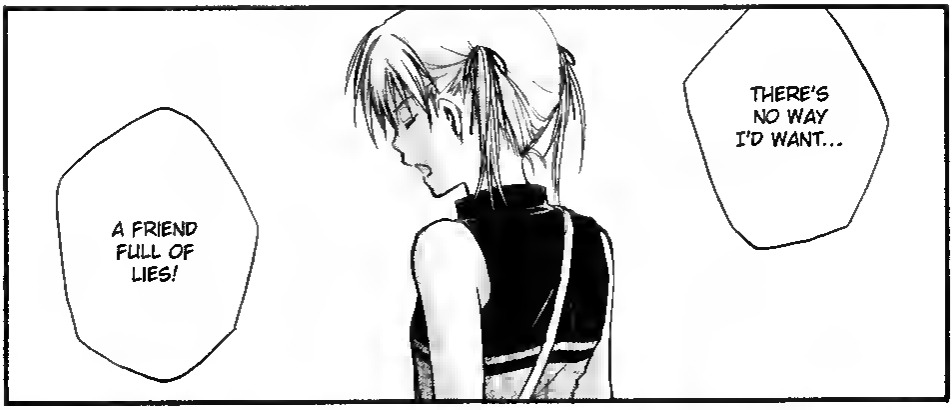
YO.
YOU'RE SO SLOW, NAGISA YAMADA!
...
DID YOU LOOK FOR ME?
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE BUS STOP WE CAME FROM IN 30 MINUTES.

HOW DID YOU DO IT?
LIKE I SAID, I TURNED INTO FOAM
...
HEHEHE.
HAS PORCU-PINE-HEAD GONE HOME?
...YEAH. HE LOOKED BOTHERED WHEN HE LEFT.
OKAY, THEN...
LET'S GO DO SOMETHING FUN SOME-WHERE.
...HUH?

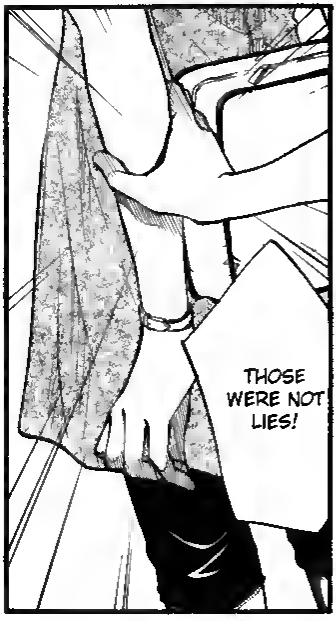
BUT PORCU-PINE-HEAD FINALLY LEFT!
?!
WHAT?
WHY?
WHY? I'M GOING HOME TOO.
ALSO, YOUR DATE ENDED ALREADY.
DON'T TELL ME YOU PLAYED THAT PRANK JUST NOW... JUST FOR THIS?
..YUP.
THAT GUY...
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!
B— BECAUSE...
...


I TOLD HIM, "AS LONG AS YAMADA NAGISA COMES ALONG, I'LL SAY OK"
B— BUT...
HE SHOULD'VE UNDERSTOOD THAT POINT, RIGHT?
I DON'T THINK I'M OBLIGATED TO PLEASE THAT GUY!
OH, REALLY? WELL, DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
BYE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT FOR ME

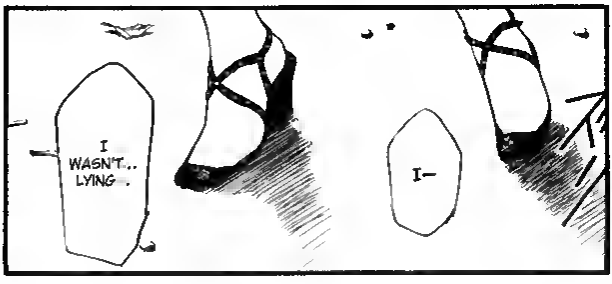

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULD BE MY FRIEND?


THERE'S NO WAY I'D WANT...
A FRIEND FULL OF LIES!

YOU'RE ALWAYS LYING!
ABOUT MERMAIDS, TURNING INTO FOAM..
...SECRET ROOMS.


THOSE WERE NOT LIES!

I CAN'T GET ALONG WITH YOU ANYMORE!


I WASN'T... LYING.
I—

THERE REALLY IS A MERMAID COMMUNE UNDER THE JAPAN SEA..
YEAH..
AND I'M A SPECIAL PRINCESS THERE
BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED!
THERE ARE VERY FEW WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME...
ALTHOUGH I'M IN THE HUMAN WORLD RIGHT NOW...
AND I LOOK LIKE A HUMAN, I'M ACTUALLY DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
ALL THIS...
EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT!

BELIEVE ME!
NAGISA YAMADA!
Mokuzu's innocent and irrelevant lie...
I'VE SAID ENOUGH!
Something was eating away at me on the inside.
MOKUZU UMINO...
YOU ARE THE WORST LIAR EVER!
I—
I'M NOT!

YESTERDAY, ALL YOU DID WAS SPOUT WEIRD THINGS!
BUYING THAT MACHETE, TOO...
YOU SAID YOUR DAD BOUGHT IT TO DISMEMBER A BODY?
WHY WOULD YOU TELL SUCH A TERRIFYING LIE?
THAT... WASN'T A L—
IF THAT'S TRUE...
WHERE'S THE DISMEMBERED CORPSE?
UHH...
スゥ...
Ah... This is the end.

OR SHOULD I SAY THE MURDERER WAS YOU?
FOR YOUR SAKE, YOUR FATHER HELPED YOU DISPOSE OF THE BODY? OR MAYBE...
IF THAT WAS TRUE, WOULDN'T IT BE MURDER?
YOUR DAD WOULD BE ARRESTED, YOU KNOW?
Damnit, this is so unlike me.
Over something as simple as Mokuzu's lies...
I became so infuriated.
AH! IT'S A DOG, RIGHT?
YOUR HOME HAS A GIANT DOG KENNEL AFTER ALL.

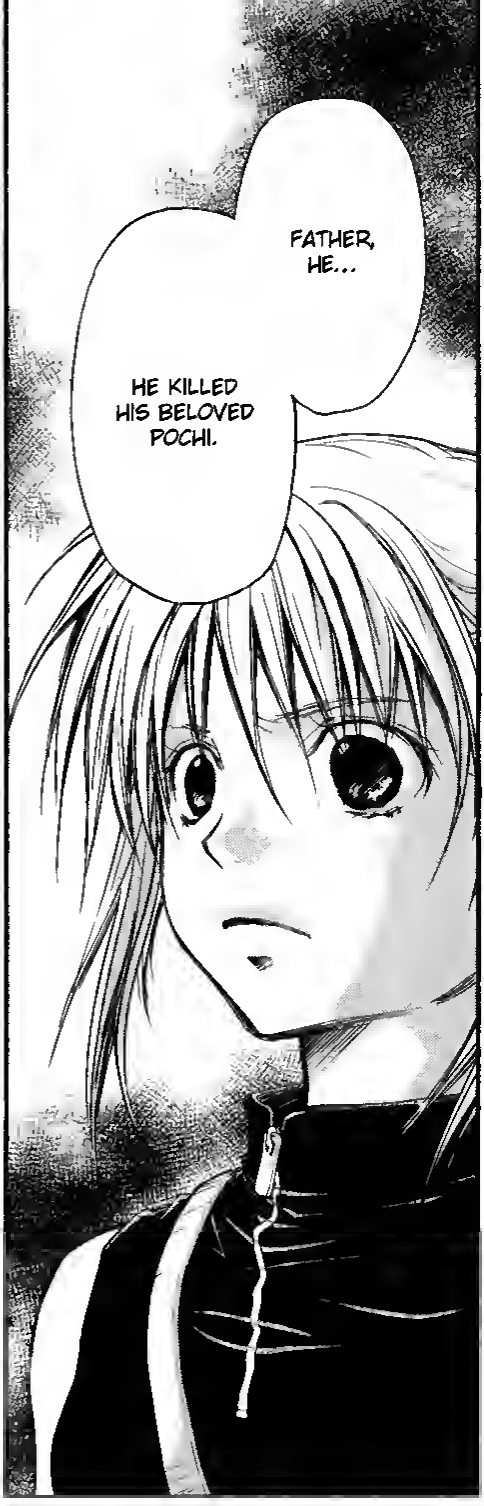
IT WAS THE DOG THAT WAS KILLED.
SINCE IT'S A DOG, IT WOULDN'T BE A CRIMINAL CASE, RIGHT?
THOUGH HE MIGHT BE ARRESTED FOR ANIMAL ABUSE. BUT COMPARED TO A HUMAN, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
RIGHT?
Like a wild horse out of control...
In front of a crying Mokuzu, I couldn't calm down.
IT WASN'T A HUMAN THAT WAS DISMEMBERED, IT WAS A DOG!
AM I RIGHT?
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT...

OR IT COULD BE...
...?!
WHAT?
LIKE I SAID...
THAT IS IT.

WHY?
IT W...
UMM...

HE BEAT IT... WITH A BRICK...
...

INITIALLY... HE THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T DIE...
SINCE... IT WAS SO BIG.


FATHER, HE...
HE KILLED HIS BELOVED POCHI.

HE SAID HE WANTED TO BURY IT...
ON THE MOUNTAIN...
FATHER CRIED REALLY HARD...
THEN... UMM...
BUT THEN IT STAGGERED AROUND A BIT, AND DIED.
THEN, LAST NIGHT...
HE WENT UP TO NINAYAMA TO BURY THE BODY.
SO I BOUGHT A MACHETE, AND FATHER CHOPPED IT UP INTO FOUR PIECES.
BUT THE BODY WASN'T EASY TO MOVE...
SO...
FATHER EVEN WROTE A LETTER TO POCHI!
IT READ, "GOODBYE, POCHI."

I've had quite enough candy.

All day today...

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

There weren't any bullets.

IF THIS WAS A LIE...
WOULD YOU SWEAR NEVER TO LIE AGAIN?
Y—
YES.
I couldn't take it anymore.
THEN...
WE'RE GOING!
WHERE... WHERE ARE WE GOING?

To prove that a lie is a lie...

To prove that there is nothing in between...

Whether to Mokuzu, or myself...

I was going to prove this point.

NOOOO!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT!!
NEITHER DO I!
BUT I NEED TO SEE IF IT'S REAL OR NOT.
I was just stubbornly trying to convince myself, then...
That candy bullets were meaningless and empty.

scene 6: THE QUIZMASTER

Translation shiroyuki
Proofread kio
Edit monkey
Quality Check. kate

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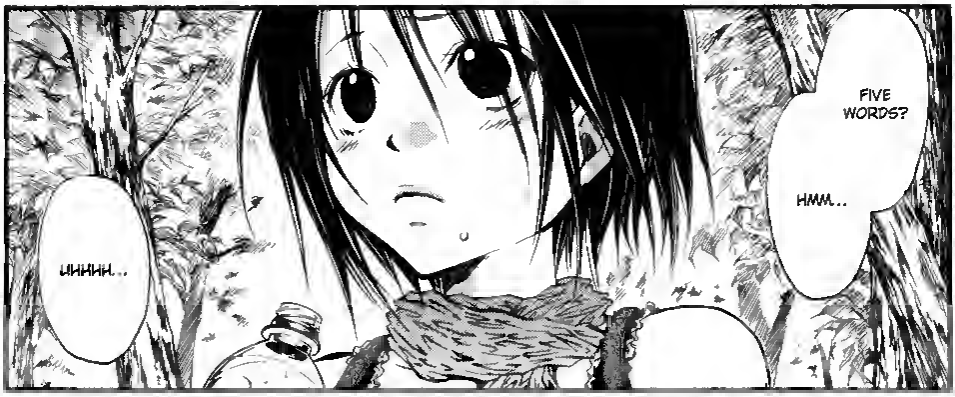
That day...

The day I dragged Mokozu
to Mount Ninayama...
What happened there...

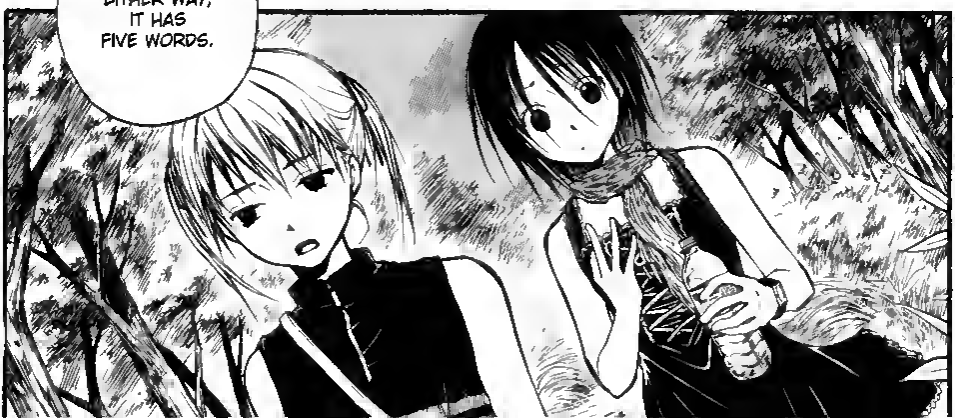
Even today, I can still
remember clearly.

Scene.6

THE QUIZMASTER


UHHHH...
HMM...
FIVE WORDS?

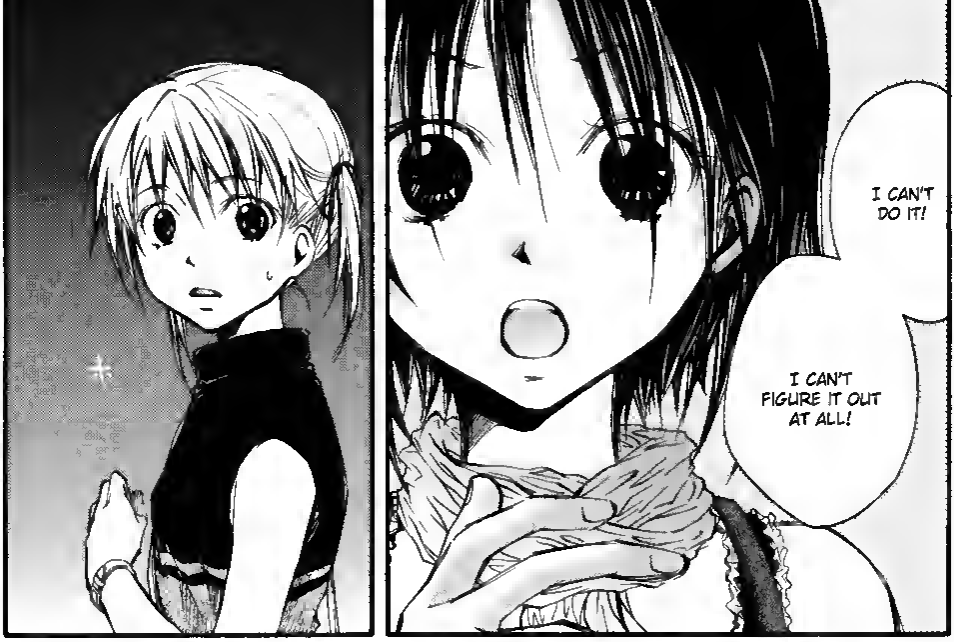
IS IT BASED ON HIRAGANA? OR KANJI?
Perhaps she had simply given in...
But Mokuzu finally perked up again.


EITHER WAY, IT HAS FIVE WORDS.

The riddle I'm about to tell, make sure you don't get it right, okay?
The riddle was brought up during a brief conversation with my brother at last night's dinner.
Nagisa...
Huh? Why?
It will be bad if you answer it correctly
Later that night...
The deceased man's son was killed
And the murderer turned out to be the wife.
She suddenly murdered her own child
There was a married man...
Who died in an uninteresting incident
At his funeral, his wife met one of his colleagues The wife and the colleague quickly developed favorable impressions of each other
Or rather, there was a mutual attraction
At a funeral?!

Not even a little? No clue at all?
I.. I'm sorry.
Now then, Just why did she do it?!
Umm, I don't know
Supposedly, it's a question asked of teen-agers who commit unusual crimes, to determine their mental state.
To this date, there have only been five people who have been able to answer it right
99.99% of normal teen-agers cannot provide the right answer
All five of them became infamous for their bizarre murders over the next ten years
My sister is normal.
It would've been bad if you had gotten it right

Nor why her father killed his own dog, Pochi.
THE WIFE KILLED HER OWN CHILD..
WHY?
Or why he dismembered its corpse.
The answer to the riddle was simple
But I couldn't guess it at all.
If it had been this girl who had said such strange words—
FIVE WORDS...
...HMM.
If it was Mokuzu Umino



Telling lies to attract attention...

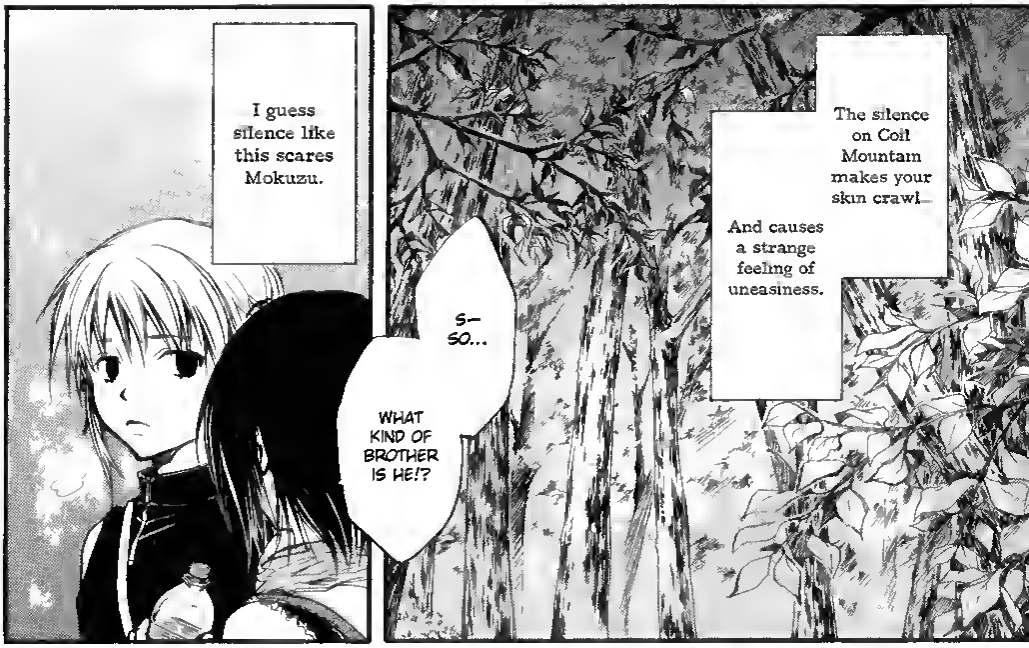
Sigh...

It is a little disappointing, though...

Perhaps she's just as normal on the inside as she is on the outside.

YAMADA NAGISA'S BROTHER MUST KNOW A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS TO HAVE TOLD THIS RIDDLE ..
LIKE MOVIES, AND SECRET ROOMS
UH...
WHAT KIND OF BROTHER IS HE?
DO YOU LOOK ALIKE? ARE YOU ON GOOD TERMS?
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.
...
M— MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL...
ALTHOUGH WE ARE SEPERATED BY THE OCEAN.
...

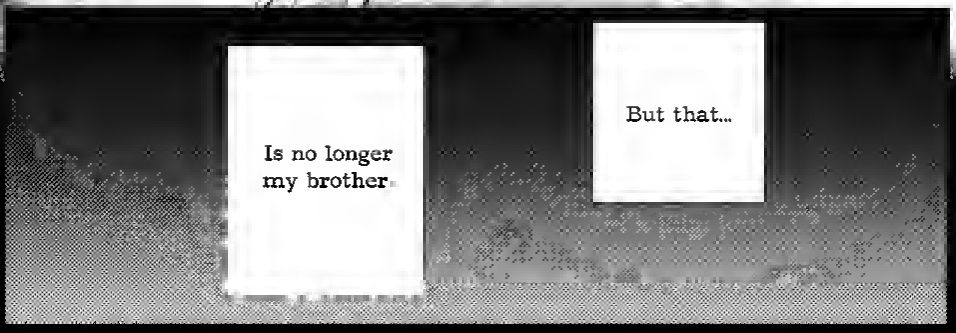
ゴクッ


I guess silence like this scares Mokuzu.
The silence on Coil Mountain makes your skin crawl...
And causes a strange feeling of uneasiness.
S-SO...
WHAT KIND OF BROTHER IS HE!?

HMMM...
A GHOST?
カサ
...WHAT ABOUT NOW?
HE USED TO BE AN HONOR STUDENT.
HE WAS COOL AND ELOQUENT.
A GHOST?
YUP.
MY HOME IS A GHOST'S FOREST AND I'M ITS CARETAKER.
WHAAA— WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Standing on the clouds as he contemplates many things with the smile of an onlooker.
Hiding in a small room, as though he survived on mist alone.
An elegant and beautiful ghost. My brother, Tomohiko...

That must be God's point of view.
That must be what it's like to be God.
Was what I felt.
Whether someone is praying, or about to die, all he does is observe with a chuckle.


Is no longer my brother.
But that...

Then three years ago, he suddenly stopped leaving his room.
But he is very gentle. Just like any other normal teenaged brother.
Occasionally he would pull pranks, or actually get upset.

Back when my brother was still popular, a female classmate barged into his room.

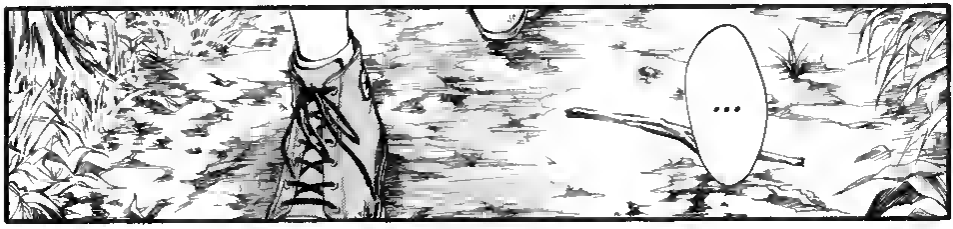
Something happened then, though I don't know exactly what.

Ever since then, he has been a completely different person.

I guess he will never be like he was before...

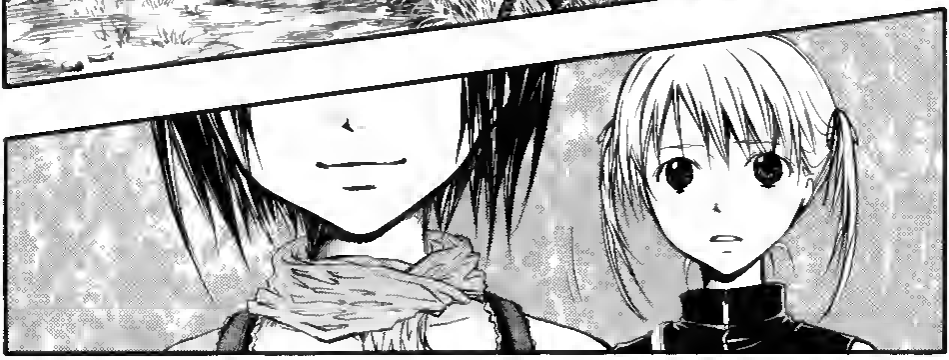
Looking out for me, chasing me around calling my name...

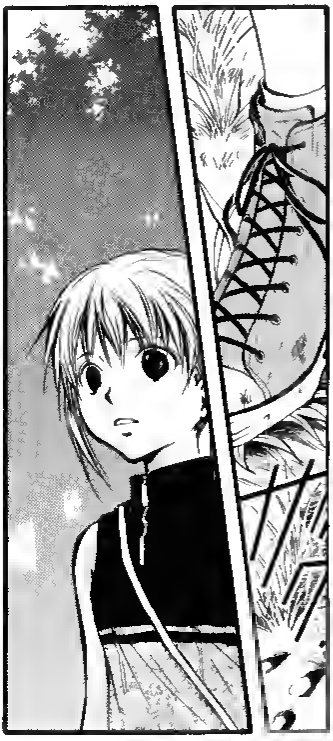
HEY, IT'S SO HOT
LET'S GO BACK.
Losing both my brother and our father, Mom had to find a job to support the family.


...

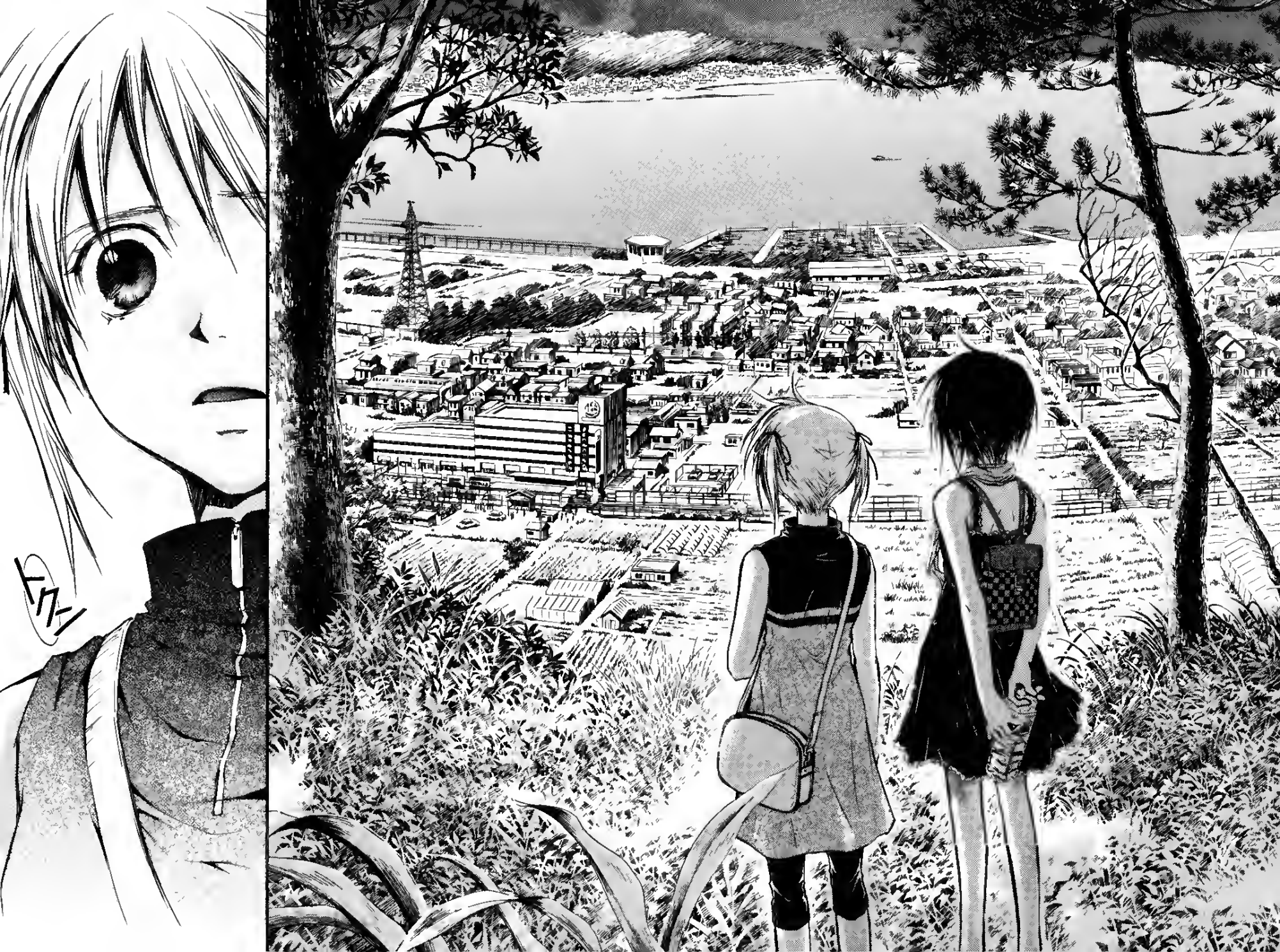
That's why I-
NAGISA YAMADA!

OVER HERE,
OVER HERE!





LOOK!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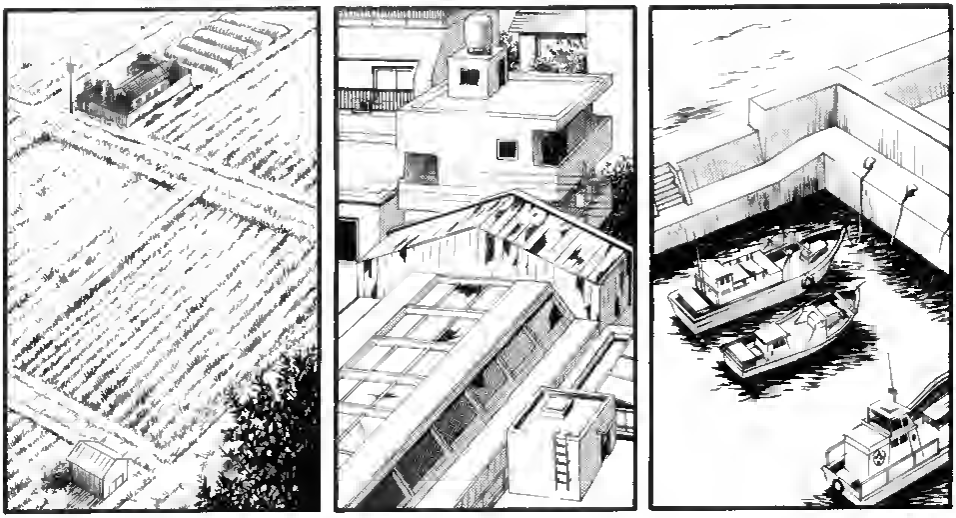


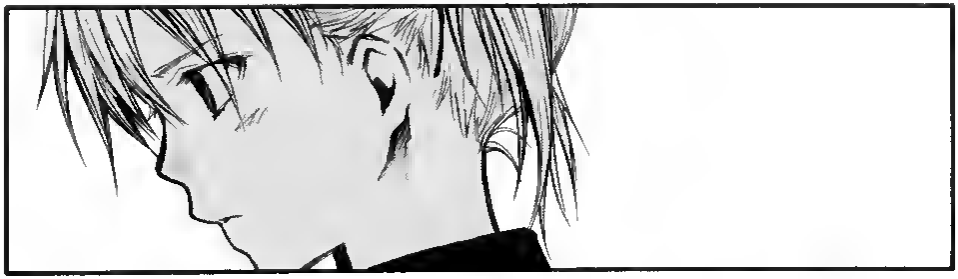
Old and lonely...

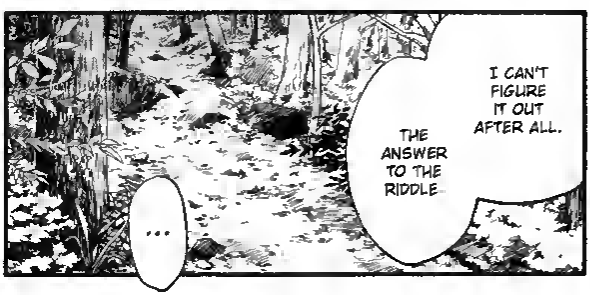
The world feels so small...

Just like...

IT'S QUITE BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

...
HEY, WAIT FOR ME.
Somehow, this small, aging world felt like me...
Like some miniature garden; unable to leave or grow as my heart desires.




I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT AFTER ALL.
THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE
...

DOES YAMADA'S BROTHER KNOW ANYTHING ELSE?
...

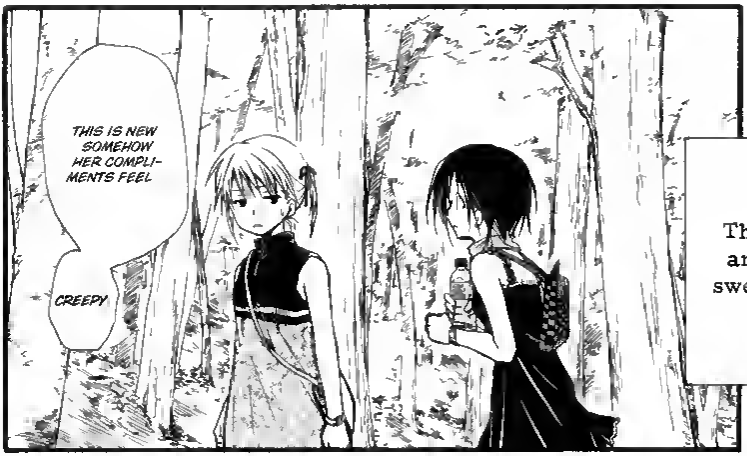
SO HE'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
SEVEN-TEEN.
HOW OLD IS HE, THEN?
WOW, HOW NICE...
HE'LL TELL ME ANYTHING
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
HE MUST DO WELL IN SCHOOL THEN, TOO?
ARE YOU DONE TALKING YET?

To this girl,
My affairs
must seem...
The daughter
of a celebrity,
from a wealthy
and fortunate
family...
Having come
from the city,
decked in the
latest fashions...

NAGISA
YAMADA'S
BROTHER...
...

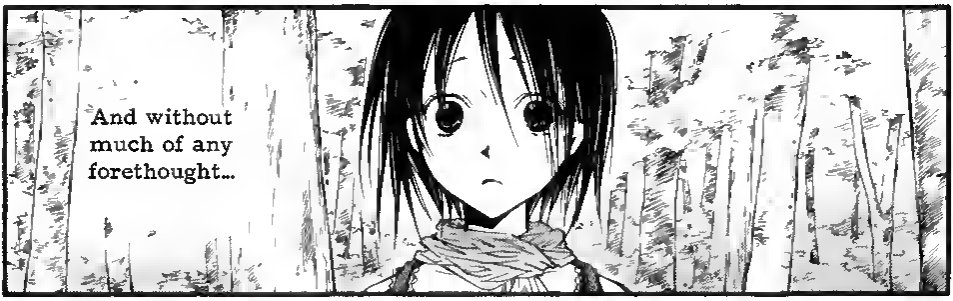
HE SEEMS
LIKE A
VERY KIND
PERSON.

AND YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH YOUR BROTHER, TOO.
HE MUST BE A REALLY GOOD BROTHER.
NAGISA IS A GOOD PERSON AS WELL.
BECAUSE YOU'RE VERY MINDFUL OF YOUR FAMILY.
YUP, THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S DEFINITELY HOW IT IS!



This seems a bit out-of-place.

This sticky and sickly sweet candy.



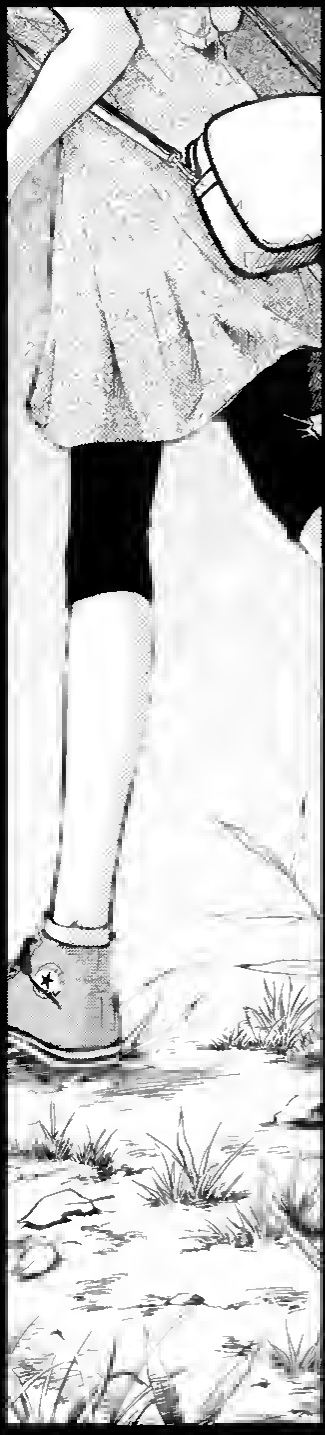
She tried her best to fire bullets at me.

And honestly, it didn't feel so bad.

When she told me that my father had died in a storm at sea...
She ignored my demands for her to stop, and instead went on to describe the joys of living under the sea.
It was like a speech, or should I say...

What now?
If I don't get home soon...
Mokuzu too, she should be bothered because she's going to have to come up with an excuse for her lies.
HEY...
MOKUZU?

POCHI.
POCHI'S...
GRAVE.

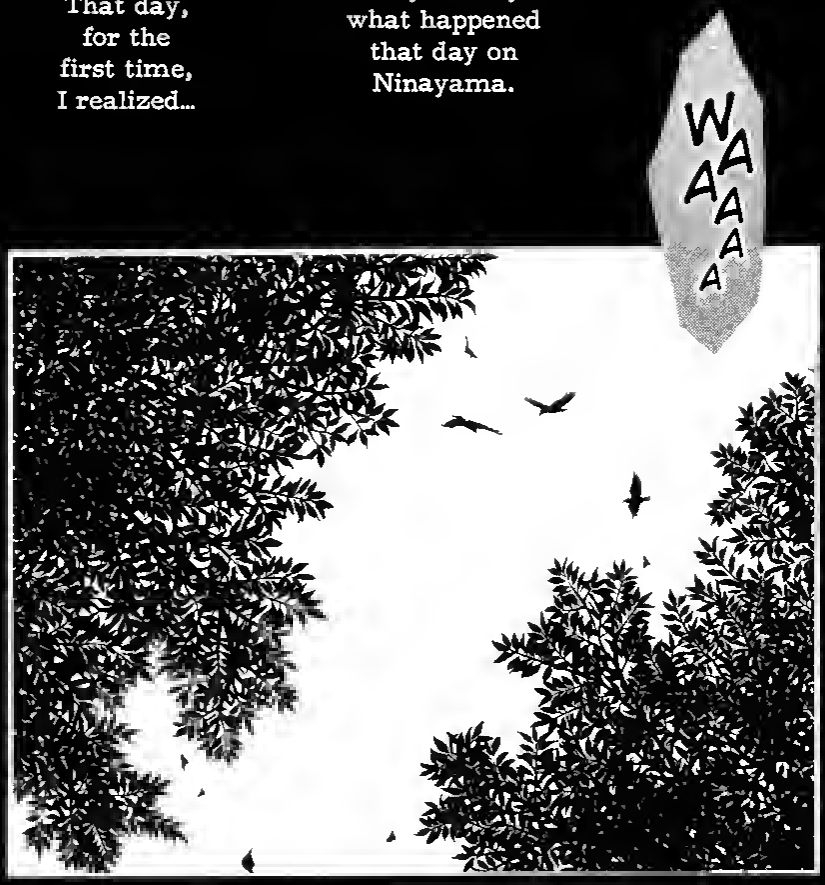


"Father killed his adorable Pochi."

"The body was chopped evenly..."
"Into four parts."

That day,
for the
first time,
I realized...

Even today,
I remember
very clearly
what happened
that day on
Ninayama.



Compared to me,
Mokuzu Umino was
much more unfortunate.

Satougashi no dangan wa uchinukenai
a lollypop or a bullet

scene 7: Friends Again

Translation Mixim
Proofread kio, Emolga
Edit Emolga
Quality Check. monkey

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October 4th, early morning.
I am hiking up Mt. Nina.

That day, I had also walked with her...
Along the same trail,
with the same scenery.

Scene.7

NAGISA, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH...

Scene.7

Friends Again

And...

I remember what I saw at that time.

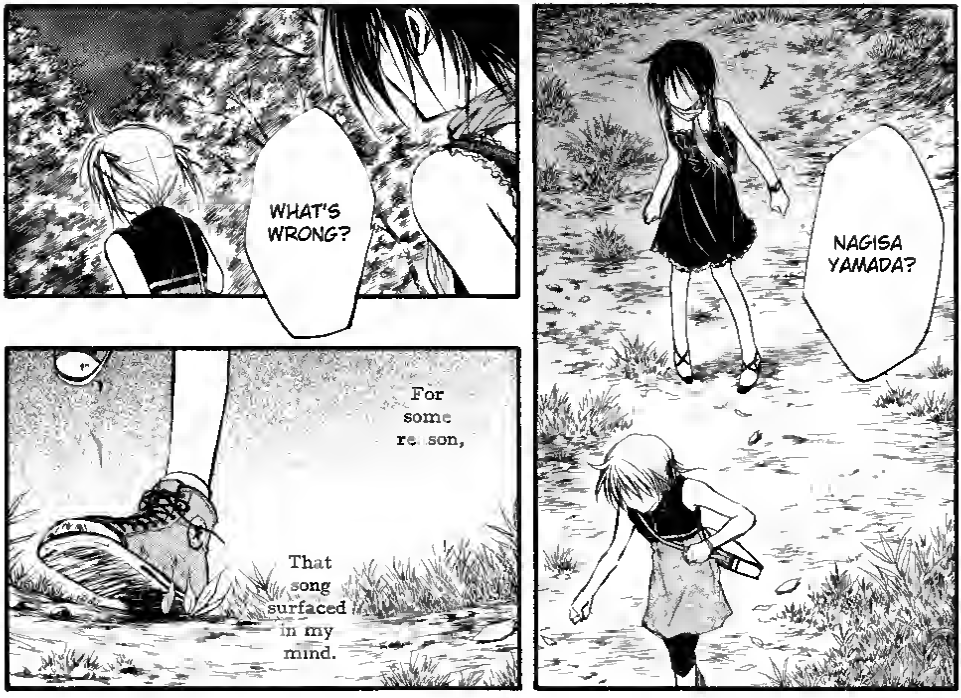
S-SORRY!
UU... EUGH...

I'M SORRY, NAGISA YAMADA!
DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY...
...UU.
THAT'S POCHI. HE WAS ALIVE UP UNTIL YESTERDAY...
UUU...
UP UNTIL HALF AN HOUR OR SO BEFORE RUNNING INTO YOU AT THE SUPERMARKET YESTERDAY...

Uu...
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
Rested its head.
And on the carefully arranged pile,
The dog's corpse had been violently dismembered into four parts,
BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED ME TO SHOW YOU, SO...
I'M SO SORRY!
Goodbye Pochi
Like a child's writing...
But one could tell that they came from the heart.
Her father's writing was messy...

WERE YOU... CLOSE TO THAT DOG?
YEAH... I'VE RAISED IT SINCE IT WAS A PUPPY...
...W- ...WHY?
WHY?

...
sniff
rustle
WHIRL


WHAT'S WRONG?
NAGISA YAMADA?
For some re son,
That song surfaced in my mind.

[Mermaid's Bone]
Umino Masachika's singing voice...
It's practically the theme song of a euphoric killer.
The third verse told of a beloved mermaid being dismembered and then devoured as sashimi.

WAIT...
WAIT UP!
...Overlapped with the image of the dismembered dog.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!
NAGISA YAMADA!
?!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
IT WASN'T ME!
IT...
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
NOT ME!
IT WAS MY DAD!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
Iruff
IT WASN'T ME...
Iruff

I...
OF COURSE I KNOW THAT.

stumble
stagger
stagger
...NAGISA YAMADA,
IT'S COLD

WANNA WEAR THIS?
... HERE,
Y- YES!

...
IT'S NAGISA YAMADA'S CARDIGAN~
— Ahh...

I guess
this girl,

Mokuzu
Umino,

Is even
more
unfortunate...

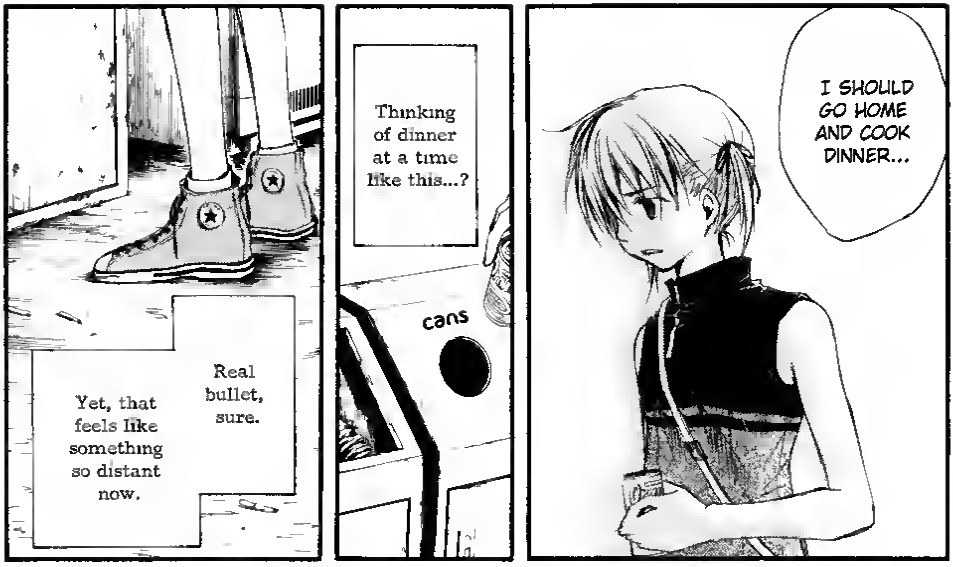
Than
I am.

I'd think, *How could someone like her possibly understand how I feel?*
I just thought that she was just some rich kid living in sheltered bliss.
Let's be friends!
But it feels like a seawall
that just collapsed all of a sudden.
And the prickling in my chest...
painfully calls out, as if to say...

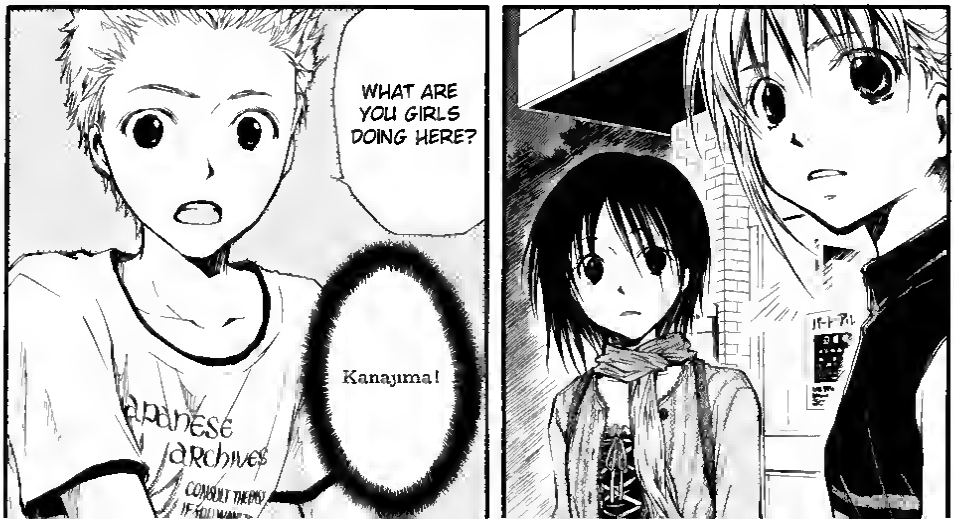
She
is my
friend...
I...

...I have to resort to this mutual wound-licking
to be able to connect with Mokuzu.
I can't help but feel disgusted at this aspect of me.

ピピピ!
gulp
gulp
gulp
gulp
DINNER...
HUH?
DRINKS
gasp
gulp
gulp


Real bullet, sure.
Yet, that feels like something so distant now.
Thinking of dinner at a time like this...?
cans
I SHOULD GO HOME AND COOK DINNER...

SCREECH
WHAT THE HECK?

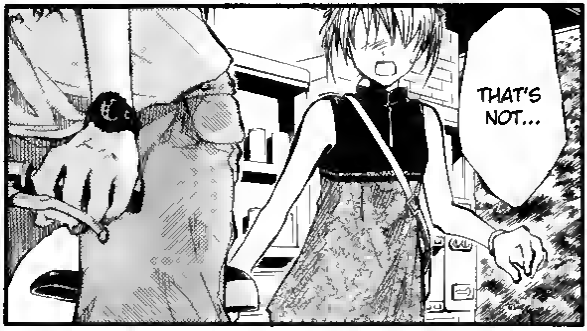

WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS DOING HERE?
Kanajima!
Japanese Archives

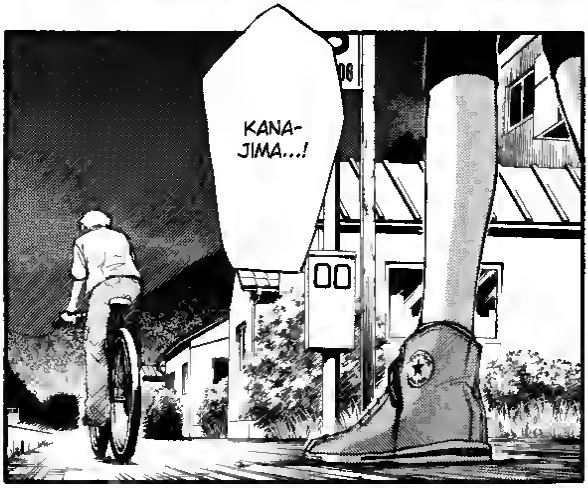
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
DIDN'T YOU HEAD HOME ALREADY?
AH...
...
UHM... I...
THE TWO OF YOU ARE DESPICABLE!

ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT DISAPPEARING INTO FOAM OR WHATEVER!
WHAT A CROCK OF SHIT!
SLAM!

EH...
YOU TWO PLOTTED TOGETHER TO MAKE ME LOOK STUPID, DIDN'T YOU?

...


THAT'S NOT...

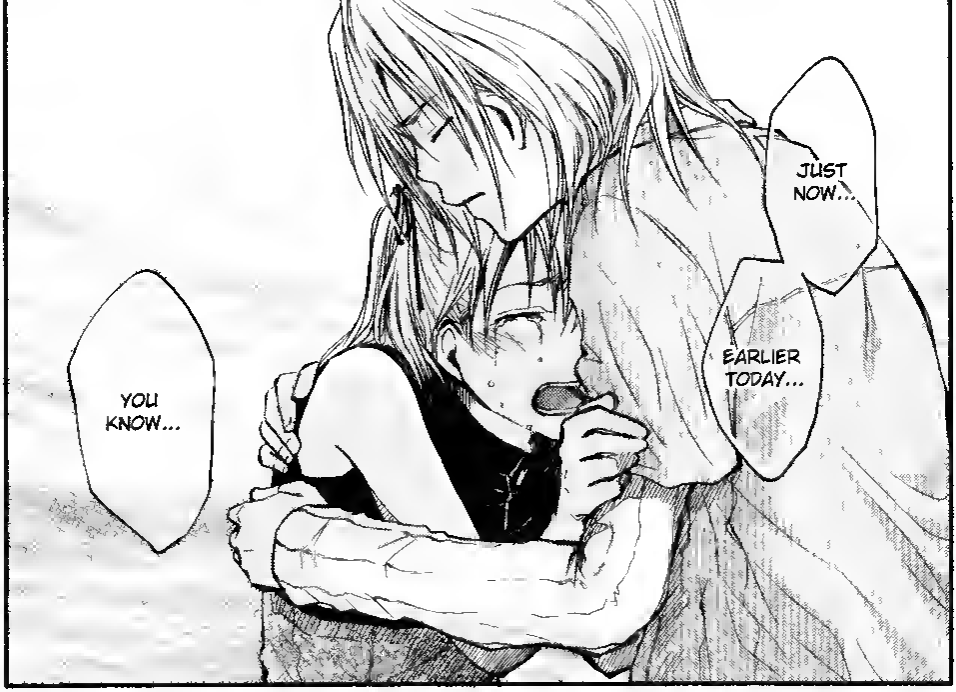

KANA-JIMA...!

Mokuzu, with a frivolous chuckle, said "See you tomorrow" just as usual.

At parting,

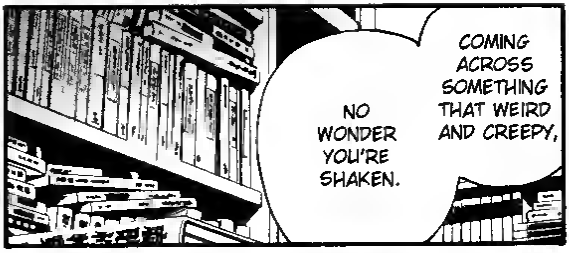
TWIST
I'M HOME.
CLICK
—AH, WELCOME HOME, NAGISA.
DINNER... I'LL... GET STARTED ON IT RIGHT AWAY.
...

Thud
WHAT'S WRONG? NAGISA!
.....
NAGISA?!
ONII...
CHA-...

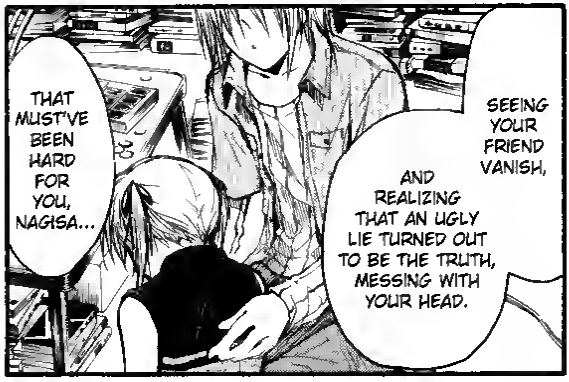


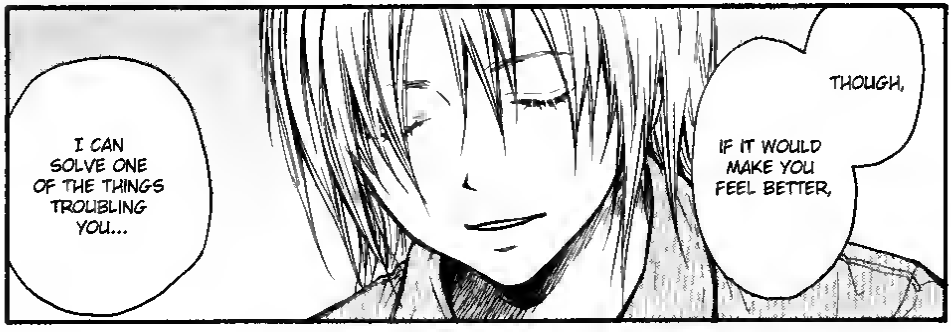
My soul...

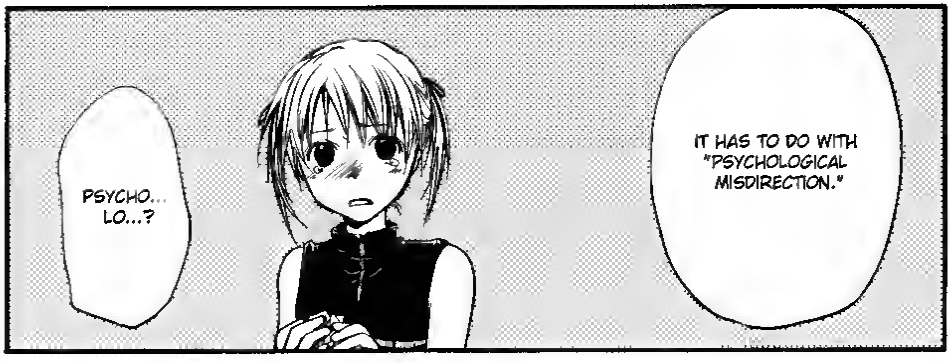
seems to be more fragile than I thought.


COMING ACROSS SOMETHING THAT WEIRD AND CREEPY,
NO WONDER YOU'RE SHAKEN.

...YEAH,
THAT WHOLE INCIDENT WITH THE DOG IS SCARY INDEED.


SEEING YOUR FRIEND VANISH,
AND REALIZING THAT AN UGLY LIE TURNED OUT TO BE THE TRUTH, MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD.
THAT MUST'VE BEEN HARD FOR YOU, NAGISA...


THOUGH,
IF IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER,
I CAN SOLVE ONE OF THE THINGS TROUBLING YOU...


IT HAS TO DO WITH "PSYCHOLOGICAL MISDIRECTION."
PSYCHO... LO...?

YOU COULD SAY WIZARDS IN ANCIENT TIMES ARE MORE OR LESS THE SAME AS PRESENT-DAY MAGICIANS.
WHEN IT COMES TO TRICKS, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SLEIGHT-OF-HAND AND BLACK MAGIC IS THE LEVEL OF DECEIT.
OH...
"PSYCHO-LOGICAL MIS-DIRECTION,"
BASICALLY, A MENTAL TRICK.
I STARTED OUT STUDYING MAGIC BUT GRADUALLY DEVELOPED INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AS WELL.
SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THE TRICK?
THOUGH IF SHE CAME UP WITH IT RIGHT WHEN YOU ASKED HER TO DISAPPEAR FOR YOU, THEN I'D SAY SHE'S A PRETTY CREATIVE CHILD.
WHAT THAT GIRL WAS SAYING ABOUT TURNING INTO FOAM AND DISAPPEARING IS A KIND OF MENTAL TRICK.
THIS IS A BASIC TECHNIQUE FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED IN MAGIC.

HERE IN MY HAND IS A CRUMPLED TISSUE BALL.
Crumple
SLIP
?
Cough
WELL THEN,
I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS BALL OF TISSUE VANISH.
Clench

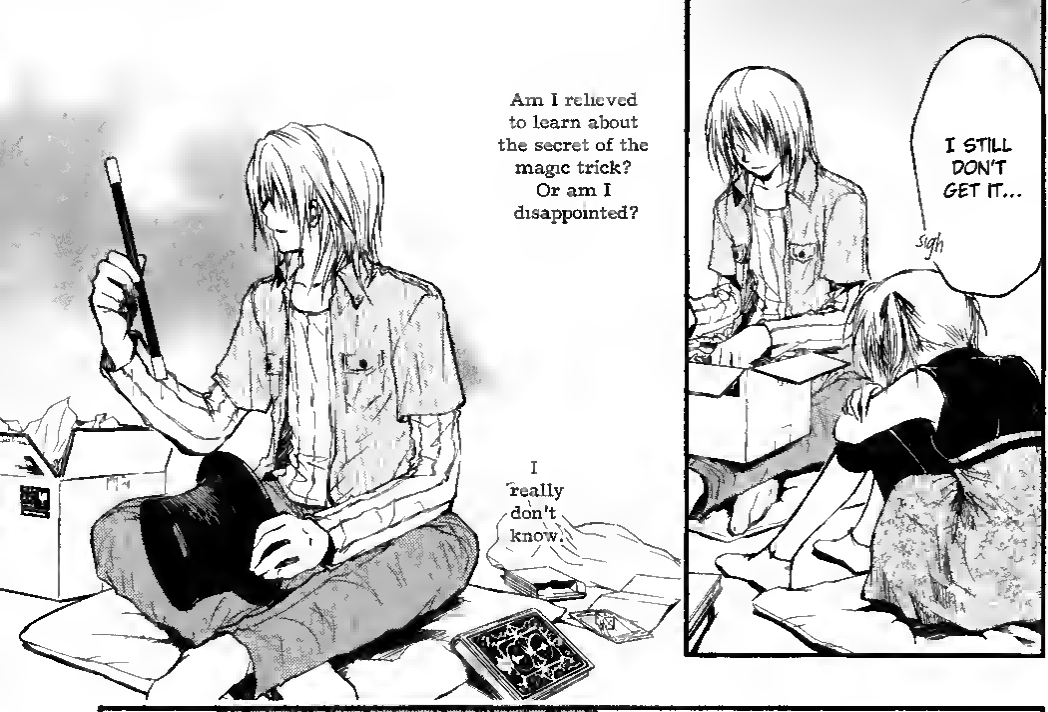
EH?
ALRIGHT, WHICH HAND DO YOU THINK THE BALL IS IN?
I HAVE NO IDEA... THIS ONE?
WRONG.
THEN, YOUR LEFT HAND.
TOO BAD. IT'S NOT HERE EITHER.
WHAT? YOU'RE RIGHT BUT... WHERE DID IT GO THEN?!
EH?
FARRELL COURSE
BEHIND YOU.

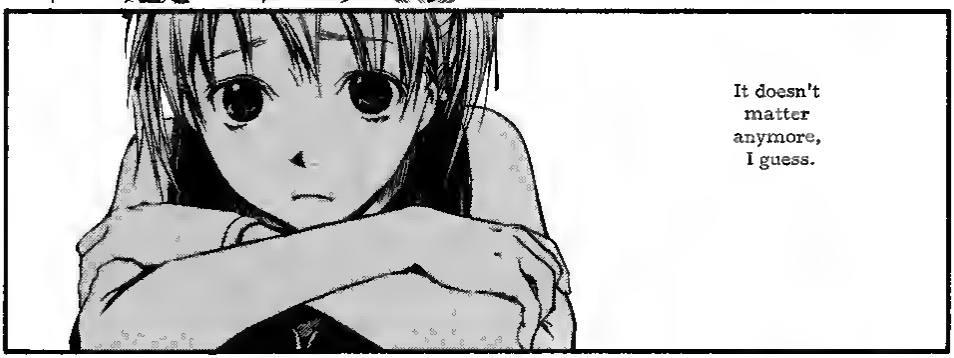
BY THE TIME I CLENCHED MY FISTS, THE TISSUE WAS LONG GONE.
YOU KNOW HOW I FAKED A COUGH?
THAT'S WHEN I THREW IT BEHIND YOU.
HOW...
HOW?!
EH~
THIS TRICK TAKES ADVANTAGE OF YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL BLIND SPOTS.
THAT'S HOW YOUR FRIEND PULLED IT OFF, TOO.
WHILE THE REAL TRICK IS TO DIVERT EVERYONE'S ATTENTION ELSEWHERE, LIKE I DID WITH A COUGH.
THE SETUP INVOLVES MAKING CRYPTIC REMARKS THAT GRAB PEOPLE'S ATTENTION, LIKE "HEY, I'M ABOUT TO PERFORM A MAGIC TRICK!"
SHE KEPT CLAIMING THAT SHE'D TURN INTO FOAM AS SOON AS SHE STEPPED INTO HER HOUSE, DIDN'T SHE?
AND A MINUTE LATER, SHE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, AND ASIDE FROM THE FRONT DOOR, ALL OTHER ENTRANCES WERE LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE...
YEAH...

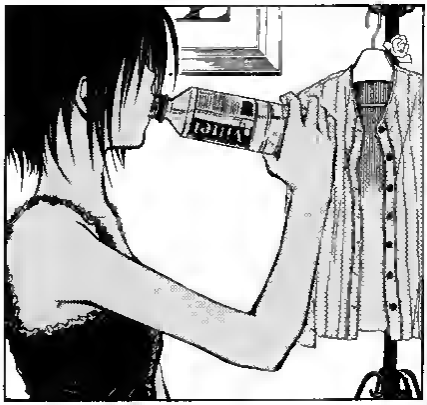
THIS TRICK WAS ALREADY IN MOTION BEFORE SHE WALKED INTO HER HOUSE.
TRY TO THINK BACK. RIGHT AS SHE STEPPED OVER HER THRESHOLD, DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
When we looked back at the door,
it had already slammed shut...
In that split second, we looked away.
The 5 o'clock siren happened to ring *
...AH,
THE SIREN!

* In many places in residential Japan, a song/siren is played over the PA system at 5pm to alert children that it is time to finish their activities and go home. One example: http://bit.ly/5pmalert

I...
I SEE...
THAT EXPLAINS IT THEN.
OH... YEAH,
THERE WERE SOME BUSHES WHERE SHE COULD'VE EASILY HIDDEN HERSELF.
DURING THAT TIME, I'M GUESSING SHE LET GO OF THE DOORKNOB AND HID SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?
THAT SIREN WAS JUST LIKE THE COUGH.
pat
DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
... YEAH.


Am I relieved to learn about the secret of the magic trick? Or am I disappointed?
I really don't know.
I STILL DON'T GET IT...
sigh


It doesn't matter anymore, I guess.



Mokuzu just wanted to get my attention.
And yet, I...
.....
TIME TO COOK!

As I gradually push these thoughts to the back of my mind...
The rhythm of the 'real bullet' striking against the cutting board sounds faster than usual.
chop
chop
chop
chop

To be continued in the next volume

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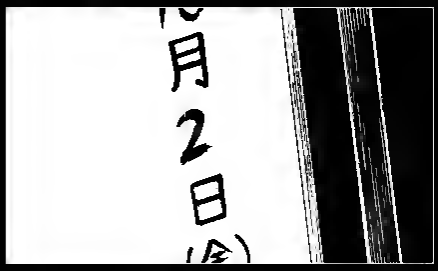
Preview

The ten-year storm arrives.



Tragedy strikes.

砂糖菓子の弾丸は撃ちぬけない

A Lollypop or A Bullet

下 発売中

単行本コミックス

砂糖菓子の弾丸は撃ちぬけない(上)
A Lollypop or A Bullet

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